

Pam-MISC

1045

STORY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY 1919



General Pershing (See Page 4)

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
NEW YORK

Officers of the American Bible Society

President

CHURCHILL H. CUTTING, New York.

President Emeritus

JAMES WOOD, New York.

Vice-Presidents

CYRUS NORTROP, LL.D., Minn.	JAMES N. GAMBLE, O.
HON. WILLIAM P. DILLINGHAM, Vt.	CHRISTOPHER MATHEWSON, Fla.
HON. E. E. BEARD, Tenn.	JUDGE ROBERT F. RAYMOND, Mass.
MERRILL E. GATES, LL.D., D. C.	B. PRESTON CLARK, Mass.
FRANK E. SPOONER, Ill.	HON. CARL E. MILLIKEN, LL.D., Me.
GEORGE W. WATTS, N. C.	HON. ROBERT H. GARDINER, Me.
W. T. HARDIE, La.	JUDGE HENRY W. ROGERS, LL.D., Conn.
HON. CHAS. E. HUGHES, LL.D., N. Y.	WILLIAM S. PILLING, Pa.
HON. H. H. SELDOMBRIDGE, Colo.	HON. ROBERT LANSING, LL.D., D. C.
JOHN R. MOTT, LL.D., N. Y.	MRS. JOHN S. KENNEDY, N. Y.
CAPT. ROBERT DOLLAR, Cal.	MRS. FINLEY J. SHEPARD, N. Y.
JOSHUA LEVERING, Md.	E. FRANCIS HYDE, N. Y.
HON. SIMEON E. BALDWIN, LL.D., Conn.	WILLIAM H. HARRIS, N. Y.

General Secretaries

REV. WILLIAM I. HAVEN, D.D.
FRANK H. MANN.

Recording Secretary

REV. LEWIS B. CHAMBERLAIN, M.A.

Treasurer

WILLIAM FOULKE.

Managers

Term—1916 to 1920

WM. JAY SCHIEFFELIN.	G. S. MACKENZIE.	WILLIAM H. SPENCER.
WM. PHILLIPS HALL.	C. EDGAR ANDERSON.	JOHN T. MANSON.
CHARLES D. LEVERICH.		

Term—1917 to 1921

HENRY S. STEARNS, M.D.	WINTHROP M. TUTTLE.	ORRIN R. JUDD.
HOWARD O. WOOD.	MORNAY WILLIAMS.	IVY L. LEE.
EBEN E. OLCOTT.		

Term—1918 to 1922

JOHN R. TABER.	FRED'K FRELINGHUYSEN.	MRS. THEO. WESTON.
J. MARSHALL STUART.	LOGAN C. MURRAY.	FREDERICK HARRIS.
HENRY A. INGRAHAM.		

Term—1919 to 1923

GEORGE D. BEATTYS.	WILLIAM H. KLENKE.	CHARLES F. DARLINGTON.
ARLANDO MARINE.	JAMES R. JOY.	SILAS F. HALLOCK, M.D.
FRANKLIN S. EDMONDS.		

Story of the American Bible Society 1919



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Introduction, 5-9.

A Cable from General Pershing, 5; World Tragedy Ended, 5; Mobilization of Spiritual Forces—its Aftermath, 5-7; A New Internationalism 7; Opportunity the Harvest of War Work, 8, 9, 25, 26.

War Service and Detailed Results, 10-13.

Over Four Million to Soldiers and Sailors, 10, 11; Nearly Two Million in Europe: Grand Total, Over Six Million Volumes, 11; Special Hospital Edition, 11; How Funds were Secured, 12, 13.

Issues and Circulation, 14-17; 27, 28.

Staff Changes at Home and Abroad, 18-23.

In Memoriam, 23.

Vice-Presidents: Charles W. Fairbanks, Edward H. Sholl, M.D., Gerard Beekman, Esq.; Managers: Silas B. Brownell, LL.D., James W. Pearsall.

Newly Elected Managers, 23; Vice-Presidents, 24; Life Directors and Life Members, 24.

Translation and Revision, 24, 25.

The Home Agencies, 29-86.

The Colored People of the South, 29-33; Northwestern, 34-40; South Atlantic, 40-46; Western, 47-54; Pacific, 55-62; Southwestern, 62-69; Eastern, 69-78; Central, 78-82; Atlantic, 82-86.

The Foreign Agencies, 87-163.

The West Indies, 88-92; Mexico, 92-97; Panama Canal and Central America, 98-104; La Plata, 105-110; Brazil, 110-114; Levant, 115-124; Siam, 124-131; China, 132-149; Japan, 149-155; Korea, 155-161; Philippines, 161-163.

Beyond the Limits of the Agencies, 163-173.

Europe, 163-169; War Distribution, 163; Russia, 164; Germany, 164; Switzerland, 165; France, 165-168; Italy, 168; Other European Countries, 169.

Asia, 169; India, 169; Arabia, 169; Ceylon, Micronesia, Africa, 170.

Auxiliary Bible Societies, 173.

Income and Expenditure, 173, 174.

Income in Excess of Expenditure, 174; Trust Funds, 174.

Estimates and Appropriations, 174, 175.

Conclusion, 175, 176.

TOPICAL GROUPINGS

Work among Foreigners by the Home Agencies.

Bohemians, Bulgarians, Croatsians, Syrians, Poles, 36; In South St. Paul, 37; Serbians; Croatsians, 54; Japanese, 55; Germans, 56; In San Francisco, 57; Armenians, 58; Lithuanians, 64; In Army Camps, 65; Mexican Refugees, 66; Italians, 71; Indians, 72; Polyglot Ohio, 79; Roumanians, 79; Pittsburgh, 83.

The Society as an Up-to-Date Business Enterprise.

- (a) In Response to Demand, Prepares to Publish Concordance Bibles, 16;
- (b) Utilizes Photographic Reproduction for Printing Bibles in Seven Foreign Languages, 16, 17;
- (c) Solves Problem of Uniform Set of Small-size Bibles in Ten Foreign Languages, 17.

War Work.

War Intensifies World Demand for the Bible, 5-10; Over Six Million Distribution, 11; In the Hospital, 11, 75; The Patrol Boat, 13; The Foreign-speaking Soldier and Sailor, 17; Co-operative Distribution at Home and Abroad, 29, 35, 41, 47, 48, 65; Army and Navy Bible Fund, 35, 59, 60, 63, 64, 69, 73-75, 83; Canal Zone, 103; Japanese Troops, 151; Distribution in Europe, 163-169.

Striking Incidents.

AT HOME: Politeness, Persistence, and a Grip of Bibles, 32; Tobacco Money for Bibles, 38; Bible Long Wanted, 43; "What the Book Says is Right!" 49; "My Ma"—in Two Homes! 50; Prodigal Daughter and her Father's Love, 53; Beautiful Home-going, 61; Shelling Peas to Give Khaki Testaments, 63; Doing Without New Shoes, 64; Missing Mess to Read the Bible, 64.

ABROAD: A Persistent, Consecrated Tailor, 97; Pills for Stones, 103; A Moslem's Testimony, 124; The "Silent Missionary," 126; Dwindling Distribution—Due to Lack of Funds, 137; No Gospel for Sixty Districts, 138; A Famine of Books in China, 144; Gospel Truth Bears Fruit After Forty Years, 147; Barber Sells Scriptures, 151; A Wicked Past, Followed by Conversion, 152; "Still Small Voice," 154, 155; Cat-and-Rat Evil Spirit, 159, 160; Converted in Portuguese Nyassaland through Sheetswa Bible from New York, 171, 172.

Growing Tolerance of Catholic Church, Priests, and People.

Priests Help to Distribute, 36; Leaving the Catholic Faith, 37; Catholic Bible Classes, 72; Catholic Lad Carries Testament "Over the Top," 77; Catholics in Panama Canal Zone Receptive, 100; Persecution Ends in Gratitude, 103; Catholic Woman Instructed, 108.

Methods Employed.

Visiting Soldiers, Sailors, Shipbuilders, 29, 32, 103, 118, 121; Grants to Schools and Churches, 30; Mills and Coal Fields, 30; Street Work; House-to-House Canvassing, 32, 33; Mines and Steel Plants, 33; House Boats, 36; Saloons; Police Stations, 37, 38, 53; Work Shops, Mill Villages and Isolated Homes, 43; Co-operating with Utah Gospel Mission, 50; Sailors' Institutes, 57; Appeals at Synods, Conventions, Conferences, and Camp Meetings, 58; Army and Navy Campaign, 59, 60, 62-64, 69, 74, 75; Voluntary Workers, 66, 84; Street-car and Railway Conductors Aid, 67; A Newsboy's Work, 67; Personal-work "Endless Chain," 70; Poughkeepsie and Gloversville Campaigns, 70; The Water Fronts, 72; County Fairs, 73; Supplying Chaplains and Red Cross Workers, 75; Mountain Mining Camps, 81; A Launch in the Canal Zone, 104; Night Volunteer Class, 127; Distribution by Correspondents, 134; Market-day Sales, 146; Preaching Tours, 147; Tent Services in Japan, 150; Bible Selling in Schools, 151; Bible in Prisons, 154, 155; Bible Classes in Korea, 158.

Results Worth While.

AT HOME: The Fisher Folk, 36; A Hundred Converted in Police Station, 38; Increasing Interest, 43; Promise of Two Soldiers, 44; Practical Effects of Bible Reading, 45; Bible Leads to the Ministry, 46; The Bible and Allied Army Morale, 48; In Saloons, 53; Bible a Text-book, 65; Bibles for Blind Soldiers, 77; Labors of Mrs. Andrews, 80; In the Mountains, 81; Shipyards and Munition Plants, 84.

ABROAD: "Pass It On," 87; In Porto Rico, 90; Awakening in Mexico, 96, 97; Churches Organized, 99; Interest in El Salvador, 100; Errors of Rome Corrected, 100, 106-108; West Indian Negroes Buy Bibles, 104; Demand in Brazil, 112; A Brazilian Scholar Assists, 112; Armenian Prisoners Reached, 119; Sales in the Levant, 122-124; China Beggars for the Bible, 133, 137-142, 144, 147; Bible Selling in Japan, 150; Modern Joseph, 154, 155; Bible Classes in Korea, 158; Robbers Won, 160; War Distribution Statistics for Europe, 164; Distribution in France, 165-168; Asia, Micronesia, and Africa, 169-173.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

March 29, 1918.

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
New York City, New York.

GENTLEMEN:

In compliance with General Pershing's request, I have the honor to transmit the following quotation from his cablegram of March 24th:

**"I am glad to see that every man
in the Army is to have a Testa-
ment. Its teachings will fortify us
for our great task.**

—Pershing."

Very truly yours,

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

THIS CHARACTERISTICALLY BRIEF CABLE HAD PECULIAR SIGNIFICANCE FOR
FOUR IMPORTANT REASONS:

1. It was from General Pershing—The man and the soldier;
2. It was from the Commander of the American Forces in France;
3. It was sent on March 24th, three days after the great German offensive began, and when American troops were being suddenly and urgently called into full action for the first time. General Pershing, by giving time and thought to the sending of this cable at such a juncture, indicated clearly the importance he attached to the subject;
4. The War Department, by transmitting the cable, indicated its sympathy: of which, indeed, the very highest evidence came through two letters from the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army and Navy—President Woodrow Wilson—commending and encouraging this service of the American Bible Society.

Story of the American Bible Society, 1919

THE never-to-be-forgotten year of 1918 has become past history, and will ever be remembered as one of the most important and critical in the world's chronicles. It was a year that witnessed the final desperate death struggle and slaughter of the greatest world tragedy, which terminated with startling suddenness at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month of the year. Though the armistice was signed and the great war ceased, yet it was followed by revolutions, Bolshevism and a score of minor wars that still rage. It was a year of untold suffering, toil, and trouble; a year of despair ending in a year of hope; a year of highly developed scientific warfare, with its diabolical mechanisms for the destruction of life, followed by a vision of enduring peace and brotherhood, by the establishment of a League of Nations, and the limitation of armaments; a year in which brute force and autocracy were vanquished, and the Christian principles of justice, mercy, liberty, and morality gained the victory.

Mobilization of Spiritual Forces

But the greatest victory of the war was the mobilization and effective use of great spiritual forces. Some of our greatest men have testified that the war was a spiritual contest against "the world, the flesh, and the devil." Witness the unprecedented amounts given for war charities; think of the spiritual influences exerted through the Army and Navy chaplains, the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., W. C. T. U., Red Cross, and Salvation Army workers; recall the remarkable celerity with which the federal Prohi-

bition Amendment to the Constitution was ratified; remember the eagerness and demand for the Word of God in at least 85 languages among the naval and military forces of all the contending nations; and then try to grasp the extent of the spiritual power that was exerted during the four years of strife. The 85 languages represented 45 tongues in Europe, nearly 20 in Asia, as many in Africa, as well as 10 languages used in the Islands of the Seas.

The Aftermath of the War

The war tragedy has ceased, but its far-reaching influences have just begun. Consider that the twenty million or more Bibles, Testaments and portions were distributed among men representing 85 tribes or nations; picture these millions of copies of the living and active Word of God traveling in the pockets or luggage of soldiers and sailors, camp attendants, servants, coolies and labor battalions to the remotest parts of the earth, where they will be read not only by the men themselves but by their relatives, friends, and neighbors. Think of the things many thousands of men from uncivilized parts of the earth saw in Europe; namely, the products of lust and godlessness, in sharp contrast to the products of Christian principles and ideals. They beheld wonderful industrial, agricultural, and mechanical developments, and witnessed the great philanthropic organizations. All of these things, they realize, are the results of Christianity. These men, now demobilized and again in their native countries, were ministered unto when sick or wounded by noble, unselfish men and women in the medical departments, and in the various religious organizations they experienced the loving service of Christian womanhood, unsullied in its purity; they therefore now know as never before the purifying influences of Christian education and Christian thought

and life upon the men and women of Christian countries.

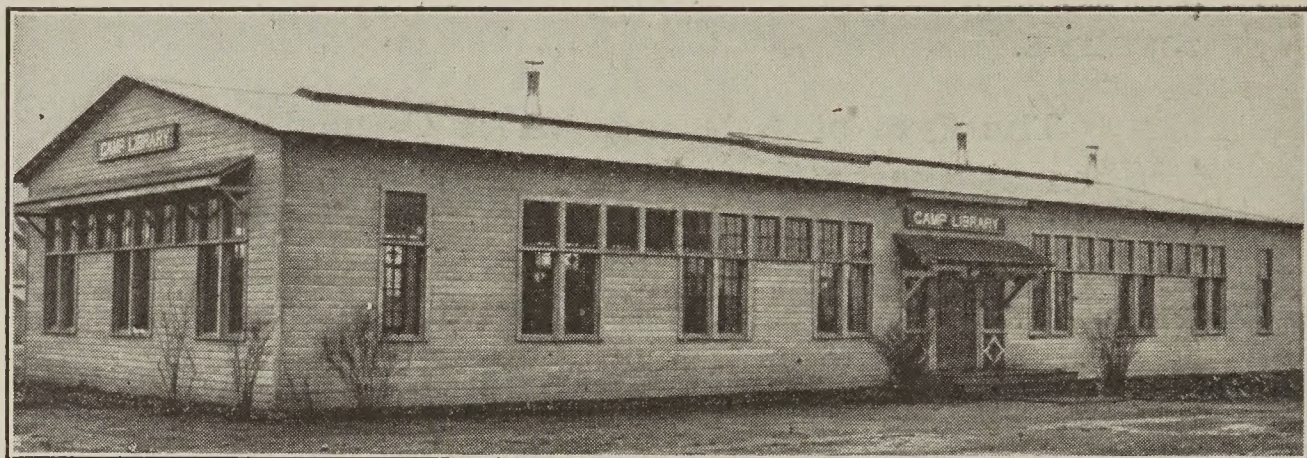
The Eyes of Asia and Africa Opened

When at the battle front thousands of men from Asia and Africa and other lands wrote hundreds of letters home to their relatives and friends telling of the things they had seen, and the treatment they had received. They are now relating these things day by day to their compatriots, who listen to their wondrous stories with open-mouthed astonishment.

Peruse thoughtfully Rudyard Kipling's important little book, "The Eyes of Asia," and note the influence exerted upon those men from India by the women who ministered to them. This experience and the things they saw opened the eyes of those Indian officers, so that India to-day is, through them, observing vividly the striking contrast between the East and the West. In the hearts and ambitions of the Indian and other officers and troops there has been created an almost unimaginable longing for better things—for educated and better women in their homes, for Western education and Western industrial, agricultural and other improvements; and, best of all, for the religion of Christ Jesus, the religion that inspired the American, British, French, Italian, and other soldiers, kept them clean, and enabled them to honor and respect the virtue of womanhood not only in the European war area, but also in Turkey, Palestine, and Mesopotamia.

A Vision of a New Internationalism

Dr. Haven, in his inspiring address before the Foreign Missionary Conference at New Haven, Conn., in June, 1919, gave the following encouraging vision of a new Internationalism which surely will be created throughout the world by means of the Scriptures and other Christian literature, and through



Courtesy of the American Library Association.

A CAMP LIBRARY BUILDING

EQUIPPED AND CONDUCTED BY THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. THE BIBLE SOCIETY HAS PROVIDED BIBLES FOR ALL THESE LIBRARIES

the instrumentality of ministers and missionary workers both at home and abroad. Dr. Haven said in part:

“One of the amazing events of the last four years not often thought of, is the way in which the Scriptures and other Christian literature have been circulated among millions of people speaking a hundred languages of the earth on the battlefields of Europe. Let the mind rest for a moment on the fact that twenty millions of Bibles, Testaments, Books of Psalms, Gospels of St. John, Books of Proverbs, etc., and unnumbered tens and hundreds of thousands of hymns, leaflets, and suggestions for spiritual living have been put into the hands of men gathered from all the corners of the earth and thrown together in this great maelstrom of the war. Tons of Chinese Scriptures, for instance, were brought from Shanghai for Chinese workers in France. These men, too, have had, strange to say, leisure and hunger for such reading as they would not have had in the homes from which they came. Men in prison camps have been allowed by the censors the Bible when they would be allowed nothing else. Men in the trenches, waiting

and watching, with days upon days spent without any of the ordinary incitements that are a part of our daily life, turned to the little Book, which was all they could carry with them.

The Harvest of War Work

“What is going to come out of it all? What is to be the harvest of such thinking in hours of such intensity as the world has never known? Where are all these millions of Scriptures and other literature given away on the battlefields of Europe going, as the men are demobilized and returned to their homes? What is going to be their effect in Africa and China and India and England and America and Germany and Austria and Russia and the world around? There never was any such propaganda known for the true Kingdom which is to fill the earth! What is to be the effect in France, where, I am told, already as in Italy, a new question has come: ‘What is this book that the President of the United States and the General of the American Armies hope may be in the hands of all their soldiers?’ I cannot tell. Only, I believe it makes for a new Internationalism.

“There can be no Internationalism without common thoughts, and in this age there must be common literature to create common thought. It is amazing, not only how the Bible has been translated into all languages, but how it has penetrated all literature.

Unprecedented Opportunity

“Never was there such an opportunity. Never were France, or Italy, or Austria, or the new nationalities rising out of the breaking up of the Central Empires, never were the peoples of Asia, or Africa, or the Islands of the Sea, so ready for this approach as at the present hour. Who will rise to undertake this task? Where shall we find the scholars, translators, revisers, who will add to the Bible a literature

for the household and the street that shall be saturated with Christian Idealism?

“The Bible is the one polyglot book for America. No other one book reaches every tongue spoken in these United States. When the Department of Immigration had to make ready to meet the new language test established by Congress, it had to turn to the Bible as the one book which was available to anyone who came into a port of entry in which it could be tested whether he was literate or not. This story might be repeated in all the earth.”

These impressive words emphasize the great importance, unlimited opportunity, and tremendous responsibility of the American Bible Society in this era of reconstruction. What an appeal are these facts to the liberality and intercession of God's people everywhere. The world-wide work of the Society is efficiently organized both at home and abroad to be able to meet the world's need and demand for the Scriptures, if all lovers of the Bible will only do their part in providing the necessary means for it.

The Society's War Service

The outstanding feature of the Society's work during 1918 was its magnificent war service. As with the government and the nation, so also with the American Bible Society, the needs of our soldiers and sailors had the right of way.

4,541,455 Volumes

From April 6, 1917, to December 31, 1918, our records show that the American Bible Society supplied for the soldiers and sailors of the United States, in special khaki and navy-blue bindings, 13,421 Bibles, 2,545,600 Testaments, and 1,982,434 portions; or a total of 4,541,455 volumes. All of these volumes were supplied at or below cost. Of the Testaments, the

bulk were the special vest-pocket edition, so convenient for, and so prized by, our men—of which edition over a million were an outright gift through the Y. M. C. A., the largest single gift of Scriptures ever made, so far as we know. Tens of thousands of these Scriptures were outright gifts through the chaplains of our Army and Navy, and other donations were made through the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Y. W. C. A., the W. C. T. U., and local committees, churches, and societies interested in equipping our men for the war.

1,846,488 Volumes in Europe

In Europe, from the beginning of the war in August, 1914, up to December 31, 1918, so far as data are in, reports show that the American Bible Society supplied for the belligerent forces of other countries 1,846,488 volumes of Scriptures, of which 565,905 were the gift of the American Sunday-school scholars through the World's Sunday School Association.

Grand Total, 6,387,943 Volumes

The total thus far recorded as distributed by the American Bible Society during the war among the forces engaged is, therefore, 6,387,943 volumes; and when all reports are in the total will be in the neighborhood of 7,000,000.

Further Work

Special Hospital Editions of the New Testament and of the Book of Psalms are being issued by the thousands at present in response to requests from the chaplains, Red Cross officers, officers of morale, and medical officers in charge—a demand which will undoubtedly continue for some time.

This service has been possible only, and greatly enhanced, by the loyal and truly marvelous work of the Bible House publishing staff, and of other printers

and binders, who have supplemented and supported our own labors.

These Results, How Accomplished

These notable results were accomplished only through the favor of God and the faith and courage of the governing Board and its officers. Determined to measure up to its responsibility in war times, the Managers and executive officers, with great faith and courage, trusting God for the financial means, ventured upon a bold and extensive programme, the results of which are indicated by the figures quoted above. Only the record which is made in heaven will completely tell of the spiritual results and service rendered by the millions of volumes so distributed.

To secure the necessary funds, as stated in the report of the Board of Managers, "the officers at the Bible House, in New York, with the co-operation of the Agency Secretaries, began a campaign immediately in April, 1917. In the late summer of that year Mr. David Hinshaw, of New York City, was engaged to develop plans which he suggested in co-operation with those already instituted. He carried forward his enterprise with vigor, and a considerable sum resulted. His relations continued until April, 1918. One of the most important features of his efforts was the securing of the interest of the great daily papers in different parts of the country, which entered heartily into the campaign. During the summer and autumn of 1918 the general officers and the Home Agency Secretaries pushed forward their plans, which were indorsed by the great religious gatherings of the spring. The demands continued to exceed the resources in such a way that the financial result seemed dubious for a time, but when the armistice was signed and a balance drawn reasons for thanksgiving unto God were made apparent by the small deficit which remained.



Copyrighted, Underwood & Underwood

ONE OF THE MANY PATROL BOATS PLACED AT GOVERNMENT SERVICE BY PATRIOTIC CITIZENS. THE DONOR OF THIS BOAT, CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JR., IS IN UNIFORM NEAR THE FORWARD MAST. THE BIBLE SOCIETY SUPPLIED THE LIBRARIES OF MANY PATROL BOATS WITH BIBLES IN NAVY BLUE.

“The year closed with activity in supplying special editions of the Testament and Psalms for the Army and Navy Hospitals. And another phase of this war service in progress as the year ended is that of the preparation of a uniform set of Testaments in ten European languages, to meet the call on behalf of men taken into the United States Army who still depend on their mother tongues for reading, and for whom the Scriptures could not be imported during the war.”

Issues

The dominant note in the reports of the officers and Agency Secretaries, both Home and Foreign, is that of thanksgiving. "Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory"—victory against an unholy war and for righteousness in international dealings and world ideals; victory in the marvelous achievements of the Allies and our own nation, and thanksgiving, too, for the success granted to the American Bible Society in meeting its opportunities and responsibilities; for the faith and courage of its governing Board; for the strenuous and loyal labors of its officers and workers; for the financial support of the believers in, and beneficiaries of, God's Word; for the blessing which has multiplied the Bread of Life to the feeding of a vast multitude the world over.

Despite war conditions, decreased appropriations, increased expenses and the impossibility of importing Scriptures in scores of foreign languages to meet the demands in the Americas, the issues during 1918 were more by 1,222,143 volumes than in 1917. The total for the year was 6,040,707, as against 4,818,564 the previous year. It was the Lord's doings.

From the Bible House, New York, the increase was nearly two million (1,835,581). This magnificent result was due mainly to the large output of Army and Navy Scriptures. During 1918 the total number of volumes issued from the Bible House was 4,480,058—the largest in the Society's history. These consisted of 208,788 Bibles, 2,299,536 Testaments, and 1,971,734 portions. It is a remarkable fact that the *Testaments* issued exceeded the number of portions. This is most unusual, and was largely due to the great number of the khaki Testaments furnished for war distribution.

The grand total issue, Home and Foreign, was 6,040,707 volumes; *viz.*: 235,780 Bibles, 2,423,722 Testaments, and 3,381,205 portions. In these figures

the *portions* exceed the Testaments, due to the issues of the Foreign Agencies. Analyzing the figures we find that the Foreign Agencies show an issue of 1,368,769 during 1918, against 1,951,532 in 1917. This reduction has been particularly in the three Foreign Agencies—Japan, China, and Korea—which usually have the largest issues; and again we may draw comfort from the fact that this decrease was owing solely to lack of appropriations, and sorely felt by those who hunger for the bread of life.

Circulation

The total circulation of the year as distinguished from issues cannot be accurately stated, because only a few of the agencies through which distribution is effected report their circulation.

An interesting situation arises under this head. The circulation of Scriptures by our Agencies depends on two human factors—the number of workers and the number of volumes available. The continued and material reduction in appropriations of course curtailed the number of workers. The stock of Scriptures, already exhausted during previous lean years, could not be replenished adequately to meet the known calls, let alone the unknown needs. The circulation therefore in Foreign Agencies again fell behind that of the previous year, being 1,785,153 volumes as against 2,497,024 the previous year. Only in one Agency, Siam, was there an increase over the previous year, the decrease in all others being very considerable. There was also a marked decrease in the circulation by the Home Agencies, the number of volumes reported being 838,733, as against 1,099,185. The decrease was almost uniform throughout the Agencies, the only exceptions being the two oldest—the Colored and the Northwestern, which report increases.

Nevertheless, the total circulation in America is

one of the largest on record. The volumes specially prepared for and circulated among the soldiers and sailors were, for special reasons, distributed chiefly from the Bible House; and, as this distribution was over three and a quarter million (3,292,734), it greatly increases the total in which, under ordinary circumstances, the Home Agencies would have participated.

Up-to-Date Business Enterprise

As an indication of the up-to-date business enterprise of the American Bible Society, in its eagerness to meet every possible need, the attention of our friends and supporters is asked to the following facts:

First: In response to repeated calls for Concordance Bibles, the Board of Managers authorized their publication, and the Rev. Jesse L. Hurlbert, D.D., was asked to compile a special Concordance to meet the needs of the people. Encouraging progress upon the difficult work of its preparation was made during 1918, and it is expected that the American Bible Society's Concordance Bibles will be available by the end of the year 1919.

Second: Since the outbreak of the world war it has been impossible to import Scriptures from the enemy countries. The stock on hand in 1914 was soon exhausted, and the needs of the "strangers in our midst" for the Word of God in their own languages could not be met. So insistent and constant were the calls that the Society ventured to respond to the demand, although it involved an initial estimated outlay of \$50,000. Professor Oswald T. Allis, of Princeton Theological Seminary, was asked to supervise the preparation of plates by the photographic reproduction process.

To this task Professor Allis brought unusual gifts and adaptability, and gave himself with consecration

and enthusiasm to the work during the summer of 1918. As a result of his labors and the initiative of the Society, beautiful thin-paper Bibles have been issued, and are meeting a great demand, in the following seven languages: Russian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Roumanian, Finnish, and Polish.

Third: Since America entered the war there has been an increasing call for Testaments in many of the foreign languages for our American soldiers and sailors who are not acquainted with English sufficiently to read it readily. A very general desire was expressed by the Y. M. C. A. and others for New Testaments practically in the same size as the khaki English Testament—which has proven so popular—in French, Italian, Russian, Modern Greek, Spanish, Yiddish, Portuguese, Polish, Roumanian, etc. No such books were in existence in this country and none procurable abroad. With great earnestness, Professor Allis devoted himself to the preparation of Testaments in the ten languages mentioned above, and to-day a series of attractive thin-paper pocket Testaments is ready for the church and its many organizations in the great work of winning our foreign-language soldiers and American citizens to a living faith in a living Saviour.

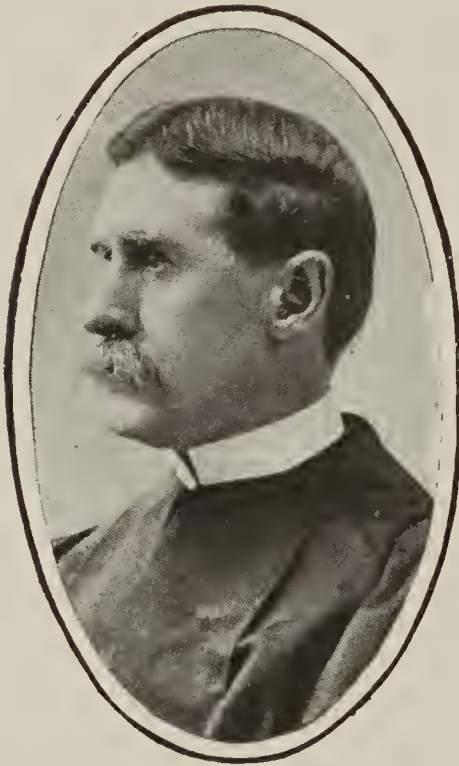
Space does not permit a detailed record of all that was involved in the preparation and publication of these Bibles and Testaments. Innumerable questions arose as to versions, styles of type to be used, form and appearance of the volumes, etc., etc.

The issuing of the Russian Bible was particularly complicated. Professor Allis considered it essential that the Holy Synod Revision Bible should be the version used. Only a few had been imported and the country and Russian churches were “combed” for a copy to be photographed and so reproduced. A cable message to the British and Foreign Bible Society, even, failed to secure one in England. But

finally, after weeks of patient effort, two copies appeared simultaneously, and now the Russian Bible in the Holy Synod Version is an accomplished fact and is in great demand.

Staff Changes

The most important item we have to record is the retirement of the Rev. John Fox, D.D., LL.D., from



REV. JOHN FOX, D.D., LL.D.

the Corresponding Secretaryship of the Society. Early in March, 1918, Dr. Fox had a return of a difficulty which had caused him serious concern a year previous. It was hoped that after a few weeks of entire rest he would be able, as he was the year before, to resume his duties at the Bible House. It became evident, however, that this was not going to be possible, and he requested the Board of Managers to relieve him from his responsibilities. They accepted his resignation, to take effect the first of

July, and made a suitable and satisfactory provision for his retirement.

Dr. Fox was elected one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the Society in November, 1898. At that time he was minister of the Second Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, N. Y., now the Spencer Memorial. His responsibilities have taken him all over the United States, and in connection with the celebration of the Centennial of Missions in China he visited the Far East in 1906 and 1907, conferring on the way

with the secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in London, and with the correspondents of the Society in France and Italy, visiting also India and the Agencies of the Society in Siam, China, Korea, and Japan. He arranged and conducted the World's Bible Congress in connection with the Panama Exposition in San Francisco in 1915. He also represented the Society at the Panama Congress, at Panama, in 1916. In the division of the correspondence of the Society in the office he had charge of the Agency among the Colored People of the South, the South Atlantic, Atlantic, and the Pacific Agencies in the home field. In the foreign fields he was particularly responsible for the correspondence with the West Indies, Brazil, Siam, and China. His devotion to the work is known of all men. There has been no truer or more stalwart champion of the Holy Scriptures than Dr. Fox.

At the request of the Board of Managers, the President of the Society, Mr. James Wood, prepared the following letter as its recorded expression of its regard and affection:

“June 6, 1918.

“REV. JOHN FOX, D.D., LL.D..

“64 Carleton Street,

“East Orange, N. J.

“*Dear Dr. Fox:* Your letter resigning your position of Corresponding Secretary of the American Bible Society, because of the condition of your health, was read at the last meeting of the Board of Managers, and was accepted with deep regret.

“The attendance at the meeting was unusually large, and there was evident a deep sense of the seriousness and importance of your action, manifested in the impressive pause that followed the reading. A number of gentlemen gave expression of their admiration for your character as a Christian gentleman, for your profound convictions on matters of fundamental



FRANK H. MANN

importance, and for your unreserved devotion to your conceptions of duty. There was a general expression of appreciation of your services to the Society.

"The warmest personal regard was manifested in the earnest hope expressed that your health may be speedily restored, and that there may

be granted you many years of happiness and service.

"I was appointed to convey to you a statement of these matters, which will be placed upon the records.

"I am, dear Dr. Fox, with the expression of my affectionate personal regard,

"Very truly yours,

"JAMES WOOD,

"*President.*"

In February, 1919, the Board of Managers unanimously elected as a worthy successor of Dr. Fox, Mr. Frank H. Mann, an account of whose life will be found in the *Bible Society Record* of February, 1919.

The New Recording Secretary

The Rev. Lewis Birge Chamberlain, M.A., who had been engaged by the Society to assist the staff during the Centennial, was, on the third of January, 1918, elected Recording Secretary.

Mr. Chamberlain was born at Vellore, India, in 1864, the son of the Rev. Dr. Jacob Chamberlain, the famous missionary of the Reformed Church in America. He came to this country for his college education, graduating at Rutgers College in 1886. He spent one year, 1886-1887, in the service of the American Tract Society; taught the next year in the Rutgers College Preparatory School; graduated from the New Brunswick Seminary in 1891; was ordained in that year as a missionary, and joined the Arcot Mission. From that time until 1914 he was stationed at Madanapalle, India, with brief intervals at other stations.

Retiring from mission work in 1915, to give his daughters a home and an education, he entered the service of the Society, in which he has now been promoted to his present responsible position.

No changes occurred among the Home Agency Secretaries.



THE REV. LEWIS BIRGE CHAMBERLAIN

Foreign Agency Secretaries

In the foreign field, Dr. José Marcial-Dorado, of Madrid, Spain, was appointed to the care of the West Indies Agency.

The Rev. W. F. Jordan, of the Mexico Agency, was transferred to the Panama Canal and Central America Agency, and the Rev. A. H. Mellen was engaged to take charge of the work in Mexico in the absence of Mr. Jordan.

The Rev. Franklin E. Hoskins, D.D., of the Presbyterian Mission in Syria, desiring to return to his field from the United States, was appointed to have charge of the Arabic-speaking portion of the Levant Agency in connection with his other work.

By action of the Board during the year the term "Agent," so long used in the foreign field, was changed and the representatives abroad were designated as "Agency Secretaries," as they had been for some time in the home field.

In Memoriam

Three Vice-Presidents and two Managers were lost to the Bible Society during the year by death: the Honorable Charles W. Fairbanks, of Indiana, who died on June 4, 1918; Edward H. Sholl, M.D., of Alabama, who died on July 13, 1918, and Gerard Beekman, Esq., of New York, who died on November 9, 1918, being Vice-Presidents; Silas B. Brownell, LL.D., of New York, who died on June 12, 1918, and James W. Pearsall, of New Jersey, who died on June 23, 1918, being Managers.

Newly Elected Managers

Logan C. Murray, New York City, was elected a member of the Board of Managers on June 6, 1918, while Prof. Oswald T. Allis, Ph.D., of Princeton, was elected a member of the Committee on Versions, and the Rev. Frederick H. Knubel, D.D., a member of the Committee on Anniversaries.

Newly Elected Vice-Presidents

At the meeting of the Board held on April 4, 1918, William S. Pilling, of Pennsylvania, was elected a Vice-President of the Society; and at its meeting on June 6, 1918, the Hon. Robert Lansing, LL.D., of the District of Columbia, was also elected a Vice-President.

Life Directors and Life Members

During 1918 eight Life Directors and ninety-seven Life Members were added to the rolls of the Society.

Translation and Revision

An important phase of the Society's work is the supervising and assisting, by men and means, in the production of new translations of the Scriptures and in the revision of tentative versions. In brief, the accomplishments during 1918 were as follows:

Spanish.—During the year the tentative version prepared by the Committee in Madrid, the subject of review and comment by many in the Spanish-speaking fields of the Society. These comments received at the Bible House, and gathered together for final action preparatory to the bringing out of the edition for general use. The comments so far indicate appreciation of this work of revision.

Brazil.—The revised Portuguese Version is meeting with favor, while the demand for an edition with references is increasing and most insistent.

Levant.—Some progress has been made during the year in the translation of the Four Gospels into Mukri Kurdish by the Rev. Mr. Fossum, now at home in this country, owing to the exigencies of the war.

Siam.—Work has been going forward on the translation of St. Mark for the Kaw and Lahu mountain

tribes. The revision of the Psalms in Siamese has been completed. Progress is being made on the revision of Proverbs in the Lahu dialect.

China.—In the Wenli Bible the checking of the unification of the proper names in the Old Testament with the Mandarin Version has been completed. In the Mandarin, changes have been made in the text of the New Testament which was revised some years ago to adjust it to the Old Testament, revision of which has just been completed.

The Future Outlook

The outlook for the future is inspiring. It is a time of unprecedented opportunity. Never were the calls for Scriptures from all sections of war-torn Europe and from every corner of the earth so many and so insistent. The Society is overwhelmed with its possibilities and its responsibilities. Who will help meet the needs?

White Fields of France

The war has opened the field of France, and Belgium, and Italy in a way that is without precedent. President Wilson's appeal to the American people to supply the men of the American Army and Navy with Testaments as essential to morale, has had a marked effect on the people of these countries in arousing interest in the Bible. This sudden demand must be met by the religious workers of the United States. For many years the American Bible Society has assisted the Bible Society of France and the Bible Society of Belgium, as well as the Evangelical Society of Geneva working in France, together with the Waldensians and similar churches in Italy. The Bible Society of France has just sent a special appeal asking for thousands of dollars for their immediate necessities. Their requests, we know, are too modest. We should have \$25,000 at once for co-operation with

the existing Bible Societies in France and Belgium, and \$10,000 to \$15,000 for immediate use in Italy and Switzerland.

The Exhausted East

In the Near East, also, the call is upon us, and such an opportunity as has not been known for generations. The stock of Christian Bibles in Turkey, in Bulgaria, and in Asia Minor is exhausted. The vicissitudes of the war have prevented contact with the presses that have served the Society in those regions. Now we must immediately meet these emergencies. Any ordinary appropriation for a normal year would fall far short of what is wanted at once. The plates must be taken out from hiding. They have been secreted so as to escape being made into munitions of war. Now they must be put on the presses and large editions run off, which requires paper, labor, etc. These books must in large part be given away, and no returns can be expected.

Latin America

In addition, there are the urgent needs for replenishing the stock in all the other foreign fields, as in Latin America, where the difficulties connected with shipping during the last two or three years have almost caused a famine of the Scriptures.

Kipling is right when he says:

It ain't the guns, nor armament,
Nor funds that they can pay,
But the close co-operation
That makes them win the day.

It ain't the individuals,
Nor the army as a whole,
But the everlasting team work
Of every bloomin' soul.

A Tabulated Bird's-eye View

The following tabulated statements of the Society's world-wide work give a bird's-eye view of the great accomplishments during 1918. Endeavor to visualize the figures, and the statements will then reveal the extensive and expensive activities of the Society.

Issues in America

January 1 to December 31, 1918

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Issued from Bible House, New York, by the shipping department.	208,649	675,739	1,970,599	2,856,049
Scriptures for the Blind.	.....	.....	1,062	.....
Issued from Schlueter and Tapley (Army and Navy).....	.....	886,985	.....	886,985
From Tapley to Y. M. C. A., not included in above.....	.....	2,050	.....	2,050
Issues under charge of Y. M. C. A.....	.....	734,435	.....	734,435
Total.....	208,649	2,299,209	1,971,661	4,479,519
By Home Agencies (purchased).....	139	327	73	539
Grand Total.....	208,788	2,299,536	1,971,734	4,480,058

Issues—Foreign Agencies

January 1 to December 31, 1918

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Levant:				
Bulgaria and Turkey	4,662	7,012	34,211	45,885
Egypt (purchased)...	4,638	3,550	27,177	35,365
La Plata (purchased)...	1,440	2,387	7,020	10,847
Japan (summary).....	5,550	47,591	55,862	109,072
Blind.....			69	
China.....	4,842	29,278	753,265	787,385
Brazil (purchased).....	136	111	1	248
Mexico (purchased)....	2,213	12	266	2,491
Korea (printed and purchased).....	123	7,619	169,737	177,479
West Indies.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Siam and Laos.....	31	1,294	181,722	183,047
Panama Canal and Central America (purch'd)	12	76	130	218
Philippines (purchased and printed).....	1,690	2,542	12,500	16,732
Total Issues.....	25,337	101,472	1,241,960	1,368,769

Summary of Issues, 1918

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
At Home.....	208,788	2,299,536	1,971,734	4,480,058
By Foreign Agencies...	25,337	101,472	1,241,960	1,368,769
By Foreign Correspondents.....	1,655	22,714	167,511	191,880
Total Summary....	235,780	2,423,722	3,381,205	6,040,707

Circulation—Home Agencies

January 1 to December 31, 1918

Agencies.	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Colored.....	10,166	14,074	17,529	41,769
Northwestern.....	29,026	175,444	72,503	276,973
South Atlantic.....	9,637	27,864	48,066	85,567
Western.....	7,779	16,035	10,404	34,218
Pacific.....	6,568	20,522	47,252	74,342
Southwestern.....	9,727	45,500	28,745	83,972
Eastern.....	3,157	9,673	17,263	30,093
Central.....	6,840	23,158	22,041	52,039
Atlantic and Penn. B. S..	18,131	39,506	102,123	159,760
Total.....	101,031	371,776	365,926	838,733

Circulation—Foreign Agencies

January 1 to December 31, 1918

Agencies.	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
West Indies.....	3,768	2,933	4,350	11,051
Mexico.....	2,269	2,054	66,617	70,940
Panama Canal and Central America.....	3,211	5,190	30,752	39,153
La Plata.....	11,414	11,271	22,455	45,140
Brazil.....	4,267	4,867	10,468	19,602
Levant { Salonica.....	68	265	450	783
{ Turkey and Bulgaria....	4,634	6,993	22,688	34,315
{ Egypt.....	4,134	5,069	21,536	30,739
Siam.....	49	586	146,717	147,352
China.....	7,379	31,747	995,183	1,034,309
Japan.....	5,053	40,494	46,988	92,535
Korea.....	390	6,838	206,511	213,739
Philippines.....	3,141	12,569	29,785	45,495
Total Circulation...	49,777	130,876	1,604,500	1,785,153

Summary of Circulation, 1918

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Home Agencies.....	101,031	371,776	365,926	838,733
Donation to the Y. M. C. A.....	.....	1,623,470	.....	1,623,470
Foreign Agencies.....	49,777	130,876	1,604,500	1,785,153
Foreign Correspondents.	1,655	22,714	167,511	191,880
Total.....	152,463	2,148,836	2,137,937	4,439,236

THE HOME AGENCIES

The Colored People of the South

Agency Secretary: REV. J. P. WRAGG, D.D.,
35 Gammon Avenue, Atlanta, Ga.

Established 1901. Field: Fifteen Southern States. Circulation in 1918, 41,769 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1901, 573,470 volumes.

The work of the Home Agencies follows in the order of their establishment. The first Agency to be established was in 1901, with a view to circulating the Scriptures among the colored people, chiefly in the Southern States. This Agency has been in charge of the Rev. J. P. Wragg, D.D., from the time it was established, and far-reaching work has been done among the large colored population of our Southern States.

As already noted, there was a considerable decrease in the aggregate distribution through the Home Agencies, owing to the decreased staff of colporteurs, very limited appropriations, lack of Scriptures, etc. Had the Home Agencies been the avenues through which the Army and Navy Scriptures have been distributed, every Agency would probably have reported an increase in circulation. As the statistics stand, only one Foreign Agency—Siam—and two Home Agencies—the Agency for the Colored People and the Northwestern—report an increase. In both of these Agencies extensive distribution of Army and Navy editions supplemented the work of the Home Office.

Dr. Wragg rejoices in the unexpected increase in circulation in his Agency and feels abundantly rewarded for his unusually hard and busy year. The requests and orders for Bibles and Testaments in the depository were unprecedentedly numerous and the faithful colporteurs were assiduous and indefatigable in their efforts. Extensive work was done among soldiers, sailors and men engaged in shipbuilding, and

grants of Scriptures were made to many poor schools and needy churches.

Joyful Results

Writing of the year's work, Dr. Wragg says:

"It is the evening of December 31, 1918. The shadow of darkness is coming upon us and we are closing our record for the year. What are our thoughts as they go backward over these days?

"A year of war, bloodshed, suffering, self-sacrifice, offerings, consecration, and prayer—it was a year of strenuousness taxing us to our uttermost.

"Our feelings are on wings of joy as we contemplate the results. Our appropriation was the smallest we have ever had with which to operate, our force of colporteurs few in number, and the field which we could cover limited; yet after all that could be said we closed up with a creditable advance in circulation and collections.

"During these twelve months we circulated 9,957 Bibles, 13,913 Testaments, 17,264 portions, a total of 41,134 copies, an increase of 3,543 over 1917. The miles traveled were fewer, but the places worked were worked thoroughly. Mills and coalfields must be visited and hunted out, for to the men at these places, when once interested, the Book is always acceptable.

"The results obtained in the cities where public employment by the government was given to our people were simply amazing.

The Workers and their Work

"Our Mr. Benton stuck to his job like a man. Rain, snow, hail, and sleet did not stop him. Once he was shut in so that he could not move on because of the river being too high for him to wade. His report was not so large this week and he was a little discouraged over it. The next week we hear from him



A COLPORTEUR'S VISIT IN ALABAMA

at a large mine where the men are just paid off and are proud of a chance to get the books and he is very happy to let them have them. He says again, 'The people are here and they need the Bibles; do fill another box like the one you sent before and get them to me at once.' When sending this faithful worker books we must fill four or more large boxes.

One box will not last him in one of his needy territories very long.

"Mr. Benton, I am glad to say, made this the best year since he has been with us, his circulation being 10,100 copies. He has been with us for thirteen years and seeks to make each year his best.

"Mr. E. W. Dean was with us in 1917 and returned in 1918 to give us a few more months of his time. He began in South Carolina, canvassing a few towns; from there he went to Newport News, Va., where he had a chance to see and be with men from all parts of the country. The soldiers were here in great numbers; also men building ships. He writes: 'I will spend this whole summer working, and will only reach the hem of this mass of people.' We are truly thankful that he had a chance to spread a goodly number of books among these men before he was forced to quit, on account of illness.

Politeness and Perseverance Succeed

"Mr. S. L. Harrison spent six months in the work. He did not impress us as being just the man we needed for a colporteur, as he did not seem to be very talkative, and that is one of the things needed in this work; but, coming to us well recommended, we concluded to give him a trial. His first report was prompt and showed that he knew what he was about. He spent most of his time in Savannah and Brunswick, and each week showed that he was not in the work for play, but for the good that he was able to do for his fellowmen. He was busy day and night, going from house to house with his grip of books to show to the people. He was so polite one could scarcely turn him away without looking at his books, and so persistent that they could not turn him down after he had shown them. His street work was as well done as his house-to-house canvassing. No matter when you met this faithful worker he had Bibles with him.

He proved himself to be a workman who needeth not be ashamed.

Bible Stand at Union Station, Atlanta

"The Rev. S. A. Lucas is always hard at it. We have had to call his attention more than once to slowing up. His reports are always among the best in every respect, and I would be afraid to try to attempt to tell just how many homes he visits in a day. He knows his business and goes at it with a will and might. The people who pass the Union Station in this city (Atlanta) are sure to see near one of the prominent corners this earnest colporteur, whose heart is in the work and who is able to convince the passers-by that they all should own Bibles. People who come into the city from the rural sections and nearby towns know where to find this Bible stand on Saturdays. He is on hand, too, ready to meet them with a cheering word and smile.

Among Mines and Steel Plants

"Mr. J. R. Taylor has his hands full, in the state of Alabama. He has been with us since last May, and finds it quite interesting, visiting the mines and steel plants, getting the books into the hands of those miners and workers, who sometimes read it and at other times send it home to their loved ones. It is not always an easy thing to get to work these mines and plants, but when the men see that you are seeking them, and not theirs, they learn to love you and trust you. Many of the miners have big hearts."

In conclusion, Dr. Wragg refers again to the constant good work of the year:

"You will thus see that we kept too busy to have any pictures taken to go in this story, and my men declared they did not have the time to note all of the suffering, and the good and bad things that were said to them: all they knew in 1918 was work, and the spreading of God's Word. Give Him the praise!"

Northwestern Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. S. H. KIRKBRIDE, D.D.
332 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Established 1906. Field: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Circulation in 1918, 276,973 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1906, 2,170,121 volumes.

The great problem of the year was how to meet the needs of the people in this extensive Agency, comprising nine important states, with the greatly reduced income. The distributing force had to be curtailed, and reached its lowest point in the history of the Agency.

The colportage staff consisted of only five persons. Three of these—G. A. Perkins, Mrs. D. M. Didriksen and Otto H. Nater—labored the entire year. The Rev. E. W. Jennett served nine months as colporteur and gave three months to field work for the War Scripture Fund. The Rev. Neil Love gave five months of service.

The statistics of their combined labors are: Towns visited, 135; miles traveled, 17,015; families found without Bibles and supplied, 870; visits made, 32,069. These figures support the claim made for these five, *viz.*, they are a choice set of co-laborers, loving their work, with few their equals as colporteurs and none their superiors, who daily exemplify the ideals of the American Bible Society.

This and the Colored Agency are the only two Home Agencies that report an increase in the circulation over 1917. The distribution for 1918 was 29,026 Bibles, 175,444 Testaments, and only 72,503 portions; a total of 276,973 volumes as against 252,333 in 1917—an increase of 24,640, or about ten per cent. By way of explanation, Dr. Kirkbride writes:

“The report for last year closed with this sentence: ‘We shall go forward with God and hope that the

year will bring many pleasant surprises.' One 'pleasant surprise,' at least, has been given us. We fully expected that the reduction of our field force two or three hundred per cent, and the inability to secure books in most of the European languages, would cause a marked decrease in our circulation. It was, therefore, a pleasant surprise, and it has afforded us much gratification to learn that there has been a marked increase in the distribution for the year.

"The situation, so far as distribution is concerned, was saved by the demand for Testaments for our enlisted men. Of the 175,444 Testaments put out during the year it is probable that fully 100,000 were the Army and Navy books.

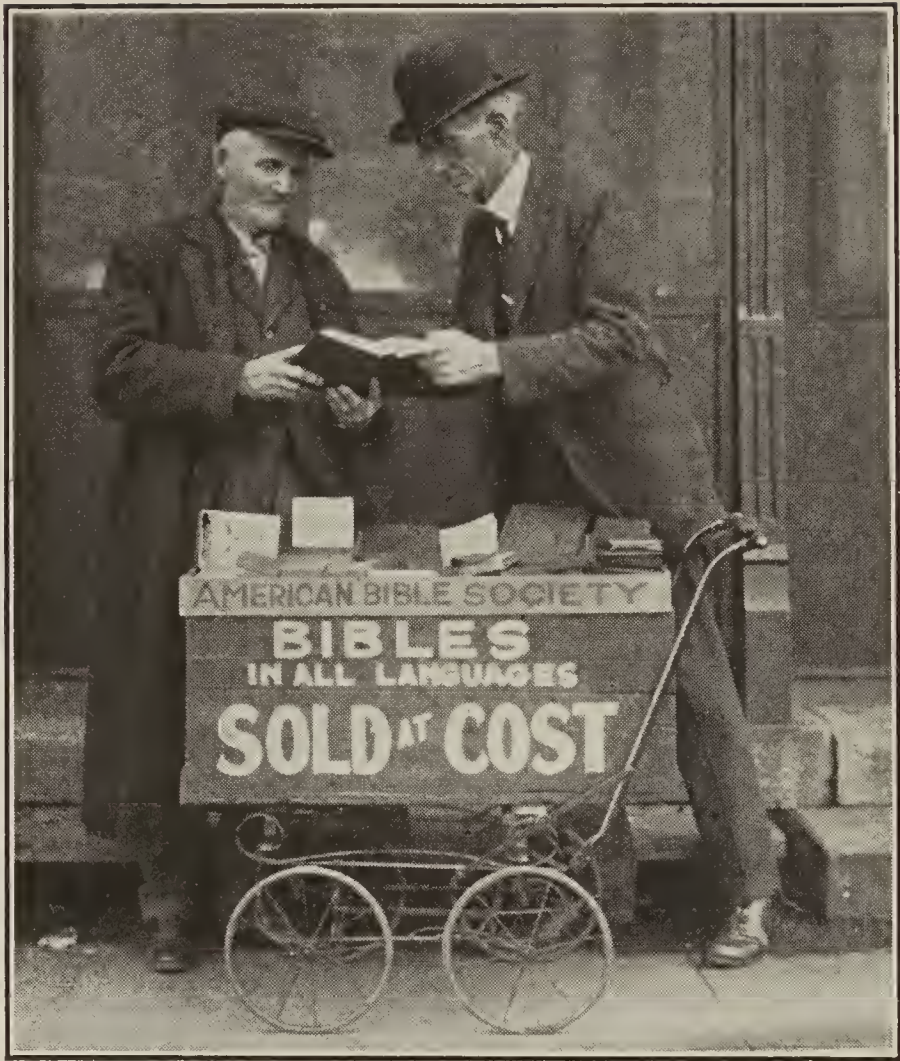
"One other fact is most significant: the relatively small number of portions sold. Up to two years ago the major part of the books sent out were portions, which usually equaled the combined number of Bibles and Testaments. The comparison between the number of Bibles and of portions circulated this year is significant. There were 72,503 portions distributed, which is only two and one-half times the Bibles sold."

Brief Stories of the Colporteurs

Mr. G. A. Perkins writes:

"The larger part of my work for 1918 has been at Evansville, Ind., Sioux City, Ia., Sioux Falls, S. D., and Mankato and St. Paul, Minn.

"I have visited one hundred cities and towns during the year. Seventy of these were visited during the three months that I was in field work in the interest of the War Scripture Fund. I have traveled 6,700 miles, made 8,100 visits, and found 550 homes without a Bible and supplied them with Bibles, Testaments, and Gospels. The distribution has been: 450 Bibles, 4,000 Testaments, 1,100 Gospels—a total of 5,550 volumes.



G. A. PERKINS AT WORK

“I have talked with many Catholic people and several Catholic priests, and I find that the latter are beginning to want their people to read the Bible. I was urged by them to help distribute Douay Testaments among the Catholic soldiers. Some of my work this year has been with Bohemians, Bulgarians, Croatians, Syrians, and Poles. I have found many of these people without Bibles.

Work among Fisher Folk in House Boats

“At all river towns I visited I found many people living in house boats along the river banks. The

work among these people is very interesting to me. Many of them are fishermen, and one has a great opportunity to point them to the One who said: 'I will make you fishers of men.' One of them said to me: 'I have wanted a Bible for a long time. Someone must have sent you here.'

One Day's Work in South St. Paul

"At the place where I got off the car there were several saloons, several drunken men, and loud talking crowds on each side of the streets. I told God I was up against a hard proposition and asked him to help me. I started in with the saloons and pool halls. The distribution for the day was 50 volumes, among the following nationalities: 5 Bohemians, 4 Croatians, 6 English, 1 French, 2 Hungarians, 1 Polish, 2 Russians, 24 Roumanians, 1 Swedish, 4 Servians—making ten languages for the day. Eight Bibleless homes were furnished with the Scriptures."

Demand for Police Bibles

The Rev. E. W. Jennett writes:

"In presenting this, my ninth annual report of colportage work with the American Bible Society, it is with deep satisfaction that I am able to state that there has been no 'let-up' in the interest manifested in the Word of God. Instead, the interest has increased.

"This is more specially true of the Polish and Hungarian peoples, from whom there has come continual demand for the Word of God. These demand the whole Word, many refusing to take a portion, even the New Testament. A large number of Testaments have been supplied to Polish people, who are mostly Catholics, many of whom have come out from the Catholic church and have connected themselves with the 'Russellite' organization."

One Hundred Conversions in a Police Station

Mr. Otto H. Nater writes:

"We have had a good year in Indianapolis and vicinity. Our regular Sabbath morning police station services, where we furnish the men and boys (and the women also) with Gospels and Testaments, have been kept up. Our audiences have grown much smaller, we are glad to say, since Indiana voted dry. There have been a little over one hundred bright conversions.

Tobacco Money for Scriptures

"Considerable work has been done among the colored people, of whom we have over 50,000 here. Some time ago, while selling a Bible to a Sunday-school teacher, the teacher excused himself every few moments to expectorate tobacco juice. I said, 'That's a bad habit you've got and a bad example to your scholars.' Then we had a little argument on what the Bible teaches and finally he said, 'Oh, I know you have the best of the argument, and I know it's a filthy habit, and I'm going to pray and clean up and ask God to help me get rid of it, and I want you to pray for me.' That was on Saturday. Monday morning he came to the depository and just opened the door, and with a bright face said, 'Say, I done got the victory over that bad habit and you won't have to ever speak to me about that again.' I didn't, and he is a regular customer. Recently he has been coming in and leaving twenty-five to fifty cents a week (presumably his tobacco money) for the colored boys in the police station.

"A short time ago a young man to whom we had given a Testament came in and said, 'I want to show you the book you gave me several months ago. I've been using it.' He had. It was worn out. He got a new one.

"We have disposed of 513 Bibles, 4,203 Testaments

and 4,382 Gospels during the year and furnished Scriptures in the following languages: Roumanian, Italian, Hungarian, French, Greek, Chinese, and German. I have done work in twenty-one towns. There is a wide field for labor here, and I believe God is blessing the work."

Mrs. D. M. Didriksen

Since the death of her husband, several years ago, Mrs. Didriksen has carried on the work of the depository at Minneapolis. Her labor is confined to the city itself, but her brother-in-law, the Rev. S. K. Didriksen, travels widely afield and puts many volumes of Scriptures in circulation. The major part of their sales are in the Scandinavian languages. During most of the past year we have been able to supply only a small part of the books they have wanted, consequently their circulation was greatly curtailed. The report is as follows:

"The distribution for the year was 3,062 volumes, the majority being in English and the Scandinavian. Forty-one hundred visits were made and many families and individuals without Bibles were supplied."

Three Thousand Days of Scripture Distribution

The Rev. Neil Love says in his report:

"This is the eleventh annual report of my work as colporteur for the American Bible Society. I try to grasp its full import at times. To put in 3,000 days or more handing to people the Word of Life has grave significance for the bearer of such a message.

Business Principle Reversed—Supply Creates Demand

"I resumed my work in the Northwestern Agency on September 1st. My efforts have been confined since then to the cities of Kalamazoo and Battle

Creek. I think it would be difficult to find any two cities of their population where more Bibles have been disposed of than have been sold in those two places in the last three years. My experience in those two places has convinced me that the demand for the Bible is largely increased by the supply, and like an opening made in an embankment by the water, the volume pouring through it is in proportion to the size of the opening. Every opening to the human heart has been enlarged by the pressure brought to bear upon it, and too often the sewers of a filthy literature have filled the opening where the river of the Water of Life should have flowed.

"My wife has helped me in my canvassing. Her years of experience in the work before did her good service when she resumed it for a few months this summer."

South Atlantic Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. M. B. PORTER
313 A East Grace Street, Richmond, Va.

Established 1907. Field: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Circulation in 1918, 85,567 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1907, 1,121,951 volumes.

Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

"This old truth has had a peculiar significance in the experiences of all who have shared in the work of this Agency during 1918. We began the year not only with many of the handicaps of 1917 still present, but with additional difficulties and new problems with which to reckon. Yet, in the midst of the handicaps, and in spite of the apprehensions, we have been sustained by the assurance that the enterprise was 'ours' because we are 'His'—that He had committed to us this enterprise because He desired to share with us the 'service,' that we may share with Him the 'joy.' He has not failed us nor refused

to honor the demands our faith has made on Him. He has given unmistakable evidence that 'He favors what has been begun.' We must continue, and we will succeed, for our work is essential."

With these words Mr. Porter begins his interesting report of the year under review. The same faith that was *his* comfort has sustained all the workers of the American Bible Society during the trying years of war; for all lovers of the Word know that the Bible is a living book that the world needs, and that, therefore, its distribution is essential.

The Circulation

On account of the reduced staff, the circulation fell from 105,197 volumes in 1917, to 85,567 in 1918. But the Army and Navy distribution is not included, as the grants were largely made from the Bible House, New York. However, this war work was considerably supplemented by this Agency, as Mr. Porter shows. He says:

Equipping Our Soldiers with the "Sword of the Spirit"

"Of course we realized in supplying our soldiers with the Scriptures, that the larger work would be done by the Society through the War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A. Although this was true we have had numerous opportunities to supplement this work. As far as our resources would justify we have made use of these opportunities, and are free to say that no phase of our service has been more productive of satisfactory results.

The Hour of Matchless Opportunity

" 'Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.' As so often in the life of his people, God rewards for work well done by giving

greater work to do. Surely he has brought us to the hour of matchless opportunity! The world is being taught that the principles of the gospel are the *eternal* principles. Men believe now as never before that the only brotherhood is that which had its supreme illustration on the Cross of Calvary.

The Bible the Only Hope of Lasting Peace

“On the field of battle, in the camps, in the hospitals, in the homes, in places of labor and service—everywhere men and women have found that the Bible is the best thing to sustain their hope and to nourish their faith. This old book must be made supreme in the world if men ‘shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks’; if ‘nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.’

“Here, truly, is a vision that allures; here a task that challenges! May the spirit of faith, courage and hope expressed in the following beautiful lines be ours:

Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes
Beyond the tragedy of a world of strife,
And know that out of death and night shall rise
The dawn of ampler life,
Rejoice, whatever anguish rend the heart,
That God has given you a priceless dower,
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom's crowning hour.
That ye may tell your sons who see the light
High in the heavens—their heritage to take—
“I saw the powers of darkness put to flight,
I saw the morning break. . . .”*

*Verses found in the pocket of a young Australian who died in the trenches at Gallipoli, and quoted in “The Practice of Friendship.”

—STEWART-WRIGHT.

News From the Front

Under this caption Mr. Porter gives scores of interesting incidents culled from the reports of his thirty-nine workers, but only a few typical ones can be noticed here. The reader is referred to the *Annual Report* for further particulars. He says:

The Haunts of the Bible-man

“My chosen haunts were the workshops, the mill villages, and, as it sometimes happened to be, the isolated homes in a quiet spot, where the Bible was read, perchance, to unlettered ones who gladly listened, and some, I think, might have said, ‘Thy Word have I hid in mine heart,’ so well did they remember the things that they had heard. And then again others with simple learning would tell me of things that they had read in ‘the Book’ in such a faithful and enlightening strain I sometimes knew I had a pleasant teacher.

Increased Interest in Bible Reading

“I have found more diligent Bible readers during the year than ever before in my experience as a colporteur. Often when I would show the New Testament to someone I have been told, ‘No, I want the whole Bible.’ This, I think, is one result of the world war.

A Shop Supplied

“At a machine shop, during an hour when the men were not busy, I sold everyone a Bible or Testament. A gentleman sitting in an automobile at the entrance of the shop said he was not in the habit of reading the Bible, but I asked to be allowed to show him some and he consented, and before I entered the shop he had bought one and was reading it, and was still reading it when I came out. Later, as I came back that way, a man who was not present when the others

bought called me and got a Bible, remarking, 'This is what I have been wanting for a long time.'

The Bible Not Read for Thirteen Years

"I was showing the books at a house where there was a caller, and the girl said to him, 'Don't you want one?' He answered, 'No, I have not read in the Bible in thirteen years.' I did not appear to hear this, but while I continued to talk to the girl was careful to say things I wanted him to hear. Presently he said, 'Let me see that little Testament.' It was a pretty book, with gold edges. 'I will buy this,' he said, and did so. Then, lifting his hat, he said 'Good-by,' and went on his way. The girl said, 'That is a very wicked man, and I never was so surprised as when he bought that Testament.'

The Promise from Two Soldiers

"In a little town where I was staying my landlady had two men from camp to dine; they were strangers and far from home. After dinner we talked and sang hymns, and before parting I gave each a little Testament. Later I received this message from them: 'We will read these Testaments, and should we be found dead on the battleground, the Testaments will be found with us.'

Diligent Bible Reading

"People generally seem to be reading the Bible more diligently since the world war began. I hope they will not relax when peace shall be established. Like all mountaineers, the West Virginians are strong-minded, but they need suggestions. They say, 'How can I understand except someone guide me?'

"The nearly fifty thousand volumes placed in West Virginia during my (the Rev. G. W. Fitzwater) nine and a half years' colportage, I believe, are as faithfully read as in any other country; and I have gratifying

evidence that mothers are more than ever reading these Scriptures to their little ones. For this I have exhorted and prayed ever since I took up this grand work.

Some Remarkable Incidents

"I often think I would like to meet again with some of those in whose hands I have placed the Bible. Some few of these I have met again, and some of the things they have told me I can relate from memory.

"A woman said, 'I have had a great many trials, but now when they seem heaviest I go and read in the Bible, and it refreshes me and rests me as nothing else can do.'

"Another woman said, 'The Bible has made such a difference in our home that I wish every home in the world had one; we read it every day together, my husband and I, but we are just learners now and we want to be good disciples.'

"One poor woman said, 'I was a wicked woman,' and then she got her Bible and showed me the words that had won her from evil, saying, 'I pray for grace that I may help others.' She bought several Testaments, to give away, she said.

"A man told me his experience as follows: 'I was a very bad man; I scoffed at religion and laughed at those who prayed, but I have repented, and with help from above I will forsake my sinful ways and live a Christian life.' He gave the Bible he had bought from me to a friend, and bought another one for himself.

"Another man said to me, 'We love to read the Bible now, and we have family prayers at my house every night, my wife, my little boy and I.'

This Book, Maybe, Is What I Want

"In a public square a man sat on a bench. I approached him and inquired, 'Do you want a Bible?' 'Not I, sir,' he answered, and he seemed to be purposely looking elsewhere. 'But, brother,' I said, as I

held the open book, 'please look at it.' He turned and looked at the open pages and I could see he was reading it. Then taking the book from my hand he read a little more; next, looking up at me, he said, 'This book is sold.' He paid for it, thanking me, and then, communing with himself, I heard him say, 'This book, maybe, is what I want.' His eyes again returned to the book, and I passed on.

A Bible Leads to the Christian Ministry

"One of the men in France wrote me the other day that he still found great joy in the Christian life. This marine was sitting on the front bench when I entered the building for religious service. I asked if he possessed a copy of the Scriptures and he replied in the negative. 'Will you read this one if I give it to you?' I asked, and he promised to do so. Later on he made a public profession of faith in Christ and has determined to study for the Christian ministry."

The Society's Crowning Glory

Mr. Porter, in concluding his report, says:

"The work which the Society does among the poor and the outcast, and the help it gives to these, is its 'crowning glory.' We have had unusual opportunities for this sort of service during the year. The appeals have been many and urgent, and we have responded to them as liberally as we could. Our generosity has been appreciated and the labor of love has not been in vain.

"It has been well said that 'he who takes God for his partner must make his programme large.' Surely this is pre-eminently true of our work and God's relation to it. It will be our purpose, therefore, under his guidance, to carry out this larger programme during the coming year. To do so successfully we need 'the vision and spirit and method of Jesus, our Master.' "

Western Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. A. F. RAGATZ, D.D.
Y. M. C. A. Building, Denver, Colo.

Established 1907. Field: New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Colorado, Missouri, and Kansas. Circulation in 1918, 34,218 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1907, 512,096 volumes.

The year 1918 was an unusually hard one in this Agency. To cover the nine vast states which comprise Dr. Ragatz' field a large force of workers is needed; but, for want of funds, the already depleted staff had to be further decreased. In consequence, the circulation fell from 45,864 in 1917, to 34,218 in 1918. Yet if even a small per cent of the Army and Navy Scriptures distributed in the territory of the Agency had passed through Dr. Ragatz' office, the figures of circulation would have reached the high-water mark. For, as Dr. Ragatz explains:

"Though we had within our territory many of the large military camps and cantonments, practically no Scripture distribution among the soldiers was done by our workers. In every instance, however, we made sure that this service was being carefully carried on by those appointed to the task. In several instances Scriptures were not available, and we were able, indirectly, to assist in getting this work under way.

"Our distribution for the year would have exceeded all previous records if only a small per cent of the Scriptures used in this territory had been furnished through our office; but, this not having been thought advisable, we contented ourselves in helping to raise funds and doing many of the practical things so essential to a successful fruition of the larger programme of the American Bible Society."

God's Word the Dynamic Force in the World War

Dr. Ragatz further writes:

"When I think of the American Bible Society

through the grace of God placing approximately 7,000,000 copies of Holy Scriptures in the hands of fighting men, my soul is filled with emotions akin to those Philip must have had when the eunuch overtook him, asking him to explain the words of the prophet, and finally exclaimed, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!'

"It is beyond the finite mind to compute the good these 7,000,000 copies of Scriptures did for the men of our Army and Navy and for the fighting men of other nations. Nor will it ever be known upon earth to what an extent the final triumph of arms was due to the inspiration given by the Word to those who laid down their lives to safeguard the foundations of human liberty.

"On the other hand, even a dull mind can comprehend that there would be no army of occupation along the Rhine if the morale of the Allied Army had been broken. But what kept it from breaking? The Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Army Y. M. C. A., etc.? Yes! But back of, and underneath, and through all these and every other good influence, pulsed that dynamic force—God's Word—ever urging men onward and upward."

A Non-religious Man's Estimate of the Bible

On the train, one day, Dr. Ragatz had a most interesting experience, which he thus describes:

"Quite frequently enthusiastic supporters for our work were found among the non-religious class. One case in point occurred while the Secretary was riding on the train. Several men were telling what they were doing to help win the war. One man in particular was very profane in his boastful recital of sacrifices Americans were called upon to make. He asked what contribution I was making. I told him about my work and how we were trying to furnish a Testament for every soldier and sailor. I

think everyone present expected another outburst of profanity, but instead he took my hand, looked squarely into my eyes, and in substance said: 'From the language you heard me use you must think me a pretty bad man. But I want to tell you that I am not as bad in my heart as my language would indicate. The fact is, I know I am wrong. What the Book says is right!' Tears came to his eyes and his grip on my hand tightened, and then he added: 'I am getting off at this station, for I have a boy here in camp; and I want to tell you that of all the things we got for him there was nothing that has been such a comfort to all of us as one of those little Testaments. I tell you, the job you've got is the greatest job in the country, for without that Book the world will never have peace.' "

The Colporteurs and their Untiring Devotion

Dr. Ragatz' report teems with interesting incidents in the year's work of the colporteurs, and a perusal of the full record in the *Annual Report* will amply repay all who desire to learn in detail the importance of the great labor of the American Bible Society. Concerning the workers and their work, Dr. Ragatz says:

"I wish to bear testimony to the untiring devotion shown to the work by all our representatives. Not a one was there that did not suffer. There was sorrow and sickness and insufficient pay, but the task was never laid down. Faithful sowers of God's Word, often having hearts heavy with their own cares, they were still ready to help carry somebody else's load. Never a monthly report that did not breathe optimism. Disappointment? Yes! Difficulties? Ever a plenty! But never a word about discouragement, or complaint. Surely God will remember these faithful servants and recompense them for the service rendered in His name.

"In many respects this has been an unusually hard year. Yet, withal, it has been one rich in service, as we know that when the sower has scattered the seed the harvest must come from God. Surely much seed has fallen on barren soil; but, true beyond all doubt, a large proportion fell upon good ground, and some will bear ten, some thirty, and some even a hundred-fold."

The Utah Gospel Mission to Mormons

In Utah and contiguous Mormon territory we worked through co-operation with the Utah Gospel Mission. The Rev. J. D. Nutting, the superintendent, maintains from four to nine men in the field. These men travel in covered wagons and go from town to town, make a systematic religious visitation of every home, distribute especially prepared literature, and as far as possible leave no Bibleless home unsupplied with the Word of God.

Their colporteurs made 14,321 calls, and visited 157 towns and villages. Of this number only about 28 had local Christian work. They distributed 1,572,873 pages of specially prepared literature; 193 religious meetings were held, with an aggregate attendance of 13,630; they distributed 4,401 copies of Scripture (mostly Bibles), and of this large number only 154 copies needed to be given away on account of poverty.

"My Ma"—in Two Homes!

One worker writes:

"Let me give you an illustration or two of the people whom we have served. They have been principally Mormons, who as a rule like to have the Bible in their homes. One day we were walking along the road when a boy of twelve overtook us. We at once proceeded to get acquainted with him. 'What is your name, my boy?' 'My name is W. T.'

'How old are you?' 'Twelve years.' 'Do you go to school?' 'Yes.' 'Have you a Bible of your own? I am a Bible-man and can sell you one very cheap.' 'I cannot buy one, but if you call at the house, my ma may get one.' 'Where do you live?' 'Over there in that house'—pointing to the house. 'But we have another house over there,' the boy added. 'Who lives in that house?' 'My ma,' was the answer. 'And who lives in the other house?' 'My ma,' was the reply again. 'You are the most fortunate boy; for some boys have not even one, and you have two mothers.' 'Oh, that there is not my ma, she is my aunt. My pa he married two women.'

"We visited both of these homes. The contrast could hardly be imagined. Home No. 2, where the second wife lived, was attractive. Around the house were trees, grass, a flowing well, and other things; and the house was well furnished inside. They had the Bible and did not care to buy. Home No. 1, where the first wife lived, was on the hillside. It consisted of two rooms—with no carpet on the floor, no pictures on the walls, no trees or grass around the house. The furniture consisted of a stove, a table, a sewing machine, a bed, and a few chairs. It was about dinner time and we at once inquired whether they had the Bible in the home. 'No,' was the reply. 'I can sell one for twenty-five cents and you should have one. No home should be without the Bible.' 'I know, but we cannot buy one.' The daughter, a fifteen-year-old girl, said, 'Oh, mother, let us buy one.' 'Child, we cannot buy one; all we have in the house is a quarter.' Finally we said, 'Here is a Testament that we sell for twenty-five cents; you can have it for ten cents.' The lady handed us the quarter, we made the change, and went our way. Both mother and daughter rejoiced at having the Word of God in their home and we rejoiced at the opportunity of supplying them.

A Bible Reader vs. Bible Profaners

"I was one day shown a Bible printed in 1810. It had gone through the battle of Waterloo. I have never handled a Bible as carefully as I did that one. It seemed much more sacred to me after hearing its blessed history. The father of the home was in very poor health and not able to go out; but there was no need of asking if he were a Christian, the Good Old Book had stamped itself on his very countenance. He told me that he had tried for seventy years to live according to the teaching of that Book. To me he seemed like a sheaf of ripened grain, only waiting to be taken home by the Reaper.

"A few days before I had seen the United States marshal transfer some I. W. W.'s from one jail to another, and as I compared this old man with some of those men, who had attempted to destroy the safeguards of civilization and had been found guilty of grave wrongdoing, I could not help thinking at what a price someone had failed long ago in placing about these men the strong appeal of Christ's gospel and the call to a clean and righteous life.

A Prodigal Daughter and her Father's Love

"A fine young girl who had left her country home in Illinois, several years ago, came to Denver. No one knew where she was. Her old father hunted for her all over the United States. Recently he came to Denver and found her, just after she had attempted suicide. The Lord led me to talk to her and she was saved. The following day I went to see her and her father, and in all my life I have never known a human father to illustrate the wonderful love of our heavenly Father as he did, for his child.

"The joy of finding her made him willing to forgive and forget. I gave the girl a large-print Testament, and she promised by God's help to live a better life. The father's heart was too full for

words. He took his child back home with him that same night.

Sermons and Scriptures in Saloons

"It is surprising how many saloon keepers ask for a copy of the Bible for their own use. One saloon keeper, when I asked if he wished to buy a Bible, refused me roughly, saying—'No, I have not been in a church for eighteen years.' But I could not be turned away thus. I explained to him that the Bible was God's message; that it was not a church-made book, but the book that had made the church. 'It is a higher law than the church. You may read it in your home, and have a church service by yourself, alone with your God.' The saloon keeper thought the matter over, finally saying—'You are right, I will buy one of your Bibles.'

"An American saloon keeper came from behind his bar when he heard that I was selling Bibles, and asked to see them. During the time he was making his selection I spoke to him, and to some fifteen men who had gathered around, concerning the Word of God. At least ten of these men said they were for the Bible; some said they would purchase later; others said they already had copies. One man asked me why I sold the Bible in saloons. I told him that the Bible belonged everywhere—it was God's gift to man, and that wherever men gathered there the Bible must go. He said, 'All right'—and purchased the highest-priced copy of the Word I could offer him.

"In another saloon I asked the bartender if he wished to purchase and he said, 'I have a Bible.' A customer standing near asked me some questions, which I answered discreetly. Then I asked the saloon keeper if I might explain my answers further, and he said—'Certainly, go ahead.' Thus I had a religious meeting in the saloon. The customer, who seemed interested, purchased a copy of the Scriptures and then

took up the work of instructing the others in the room as to the worth and value of the Bible. They became interested and several bought Testaments.

A Means to an End

"I have been able to assist a good many Serbian and Croatian residents of this community to learn to read and write—first their native language in the Latin type, and then the American language; thus opening the Scriptures to their personal use. For instance, in my visits to one community I came to the home of a Croatian about forty years of age who said, in reply to my invitation to buy a Bible, 'It is no use; I can neither read nor write.' 'But,' I said, 'you can learn.' The man and his wife laughed incredulously; the woman remembered that it had taken her some time to acquire this accomplishment, but the man had never tried. 'Can you write your name?' I asked. 'No, no!' he answered. 'But you can learn to write it in five minutes,' I persisted. Again the man and his wife laughed at the idea. In just six minutes, to his great astonishment and delight, he had learned how to write his name with ease. So I had this man write his name till he had thoroughly mastered the art. It was but a step to persuade this brother to buy the Bible in Croatian for his own use, and the New Testament in English for the use of his children, who are in the public schools, and of course care more for the American language than they do for their father's native tongue.

"A year later when I saw him I asked, 'How do you value your present ability to read and write?' He replied that he would not exchange this accomplishment for the whole city of East St. Louis."

Pacific Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. A. WESLEY MELL
122 McAllister Street, San Francisco, Cal.

Established 1907. Field: California, Nevada, Washington, and Oregon.
Circulation in 1918, 74,342 volumes. Aggregate circulation since
1907, 911,725 volumes.

In this Agency, which stretches along the Pacific Coast, the year 1918 was full of varied activities. The best thought and energy of two experienced Secretaries, each for six months, was given to the work; for after the first six months of the year the regular Secretary, the Rev. A. Wesley Mell, was loaned to labor for the Methodist Centenary, as a Conference team leader; and during his absence, in the words of Mr. Mell: "The Rev. J. L. McLaughlin, the versatile and aggressive Secretary of the Philippine Islands, took charge of the work."

The Year's Circulation

Due to the decreased staff of workers and the great attention given to the campaign for the Army and Navy Scripture Fund, the circulation fell from 109,879 volumes in 1917 to 74,342 in 1918. The number of distributors of the Scriptures was 79, as against 99 in 1917. The days of service totaled 2,984; towns visited, 781; miles traveled, 29,500. And the Word of Life was scattered in 61 languages. How varied and interesting were the efforts of these devoted workers, the brief notices of their activities will indicate.

Work among Japanese and Others

The Rev. and Mrs. U. G. Murphy have again given a year of great service to the Bible cause in the Northwest. Their sales during the past year have been: 1,019 Bibles, 2,531 Testaments, and 4,995 portions, at a valuation of \$1,972.88. They have distributed Scriptures in the following languages:



A SPANISH SUNDAY SCHOOL, PACIFIC AGENCY

English, Hebrew, Swedish, Norwegian, Japanese, Latin, Syriac, Croatian, French, Finnish, Polish, Italian, Greek, Servian, Chinese, Lettish, Danish, Welsh, Spanish, Dutch, and Roumanian.

The Rev. Murphy's home has been the headquarters of our colportage work in Seattle and the state of Washington. Having spent thirteen years in Japan, and both the Rev. and Mrs. Murphy being able to speak the Japanese language, their services among the Japanese have been exceptionally noteworthy.

Among the German-speaking People

For a number of years the Rev. George Bohlander, one of God's saints, has done a quiet but very effective colportage work, especially among the German-speaking people in southern California. The Rev. Bohlander's sales were never large, but his work was one which planted the Word of God deep in the heart and life of those among whom he labored. He sold quite a number of Scriptures in the Arabic language, and also associated in service with a young Assyrian.

During this last year the Rev. Bohlander passed to his reward. We mourn his death as that of a brother beloved, and one of the true, faithful stewards of God.

Volunteer Workers

Miss Grace Nichols, of San Francisco, has been actively engaged for another year in a very widespread distribution of the Word of God. She is a self-supporting missionary, purchasing the Scriptures at her own expense, and by personal distribution gives out the Word with prayer and earnest evangelistic effort.

Miss Nichols' distribution has been 2,011 Bibles, Testaments, and portions. These were given and sent with a personal, loving word to hundreds and hundreds of foreign-speaking men and women. The Word sown has gone to distant lands and to ships on the Seven Seas.

Among the Sailors

Oscar Zimmerman, connected with the Bible Institute, but an active correspondent in Bible distribution, has distributed 1,755 Testaments and portions among the sailors, speaking many languages, on all seas. He has had his own motor boat, by which he has visited the ships about the bay. The Bible distribution among sailors in the other main ports of the coast has been carried on in connection with the Sailors' Institutes and the home missionary workers among the seamen.

Jewish Colporteurs

Mr. and Mrs. Greenbaum, who have been associated with the American Bible Society for the past six years, and who have done splendid work, have given up their active colportage service. Frequent illness in Mr. Greenbaum's family has made it seem best for them to continue their residence in southern California.

During the first part of the year Mr. Greenbaum sold and distributed in English, Finnish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Yiddish, Spanish, and American Braille 504 Bibles, 2,221 Testaments, and 1,371 portions.

Among the Armenians

Although active colportage work has been done in previous years throughout the entire Armenian community, yet the demand for Scriptures this year has been insistent.

The Rev. A. Vartanian, of Fresno, has been faithful in his effort to supply these people with Scriptures. A shortage in the stock alone has been responsible for the diminished sale in the Armenian language. The Rev. Vartanian has sold not only Armenian, but quite a number of English Scriptures. Thus we find an increasing demand among all foreign-speaking people for the English Scriptures.

Acting Secretary J. L. McLaughlin

In reporting concerning his work in this Agency during the past six months of the year, Mr. McLaughlin writes: "Returning from the Philippines for my quinquennial furlough, I was instructed to dispose of other plans which I had formulated for the use of my time and efforts in connection with the war work, and remain on the Coast to look after the work of the Pacific Agency. After a cursory view of the field I decided that about all I could hope to accomplish in the short time I would devote to it would be in the line of plans for increasing revenues. So I visited and addressed three Presbyterian Synods, two Baptist Conventions, one Christian (Disciple) Convention, one 'Brethren' Convention, one Free Methodist Conference, two Methodist, South, Conferences, four Methodist Episcopal Conferences, one Congregationalist Convention, and four Adventist camp meetings.

"In each and all of these meetings our Society

received cordial indorsement and pledges of support, and in some of them substantial contributions at the time. In trying to meet as many of the calls as possible I have traveled altogether, since arriving in the States six months ago, upward of 27,000 miles."

Army and Navy Campaign

The Army and Navy campaign for funds to provide Scriptures for our Army forces occupied the major portion of the thought and effort of Mr. Mell and his assistants during the first half of the year. In this and the Southwestern Agencies the war fund campaigns were especially successful. Space will admit of only a brief statement of the methods used and the results obtained.

Mr. Mell writes:

"Earl A. Rowell continued with us in campaign work. After having labored in California we made special effort in Oregon and Washington, and Mr. Rowell took up field work in those states.

Methods

"Specially prepared articles were sent out to five hundred newspapers on the Pacific Coast, and other special articles were dispatched to all the church papers in the Agency, telling of the campaign, its necessity, and the opportunity before the church and nation.

"Letters were sent to two thousand ministers and the co-operation of the Sunday schools and the Young People's organizations was sought. Thousands of leaflets were inclosed in letters sent out from our Agency headquarters. Synods, Conferences, and special church gatherings were reached by personal appeal and with general literature.

Co-operation

"Bible posters were printed and circulated among the churches. Tags, representing in value from

twenty-five cents to one hundred dollars, were prepared, and tag days were held in Sunday schools and on the streets in a number of the cities and towns.

"On tag days, to stimulate interest among the boys and girls, a khaki-bound twenty-five cent Testament was given to the boy or girl collecting ten dollars or more, and a pigskin Testament to the one collecting fifty dollars or more; this proved a very popular incentive. The young people of the churches and Sunday schools gave splendid co-operation.

"Banners were used on street corners giving publicity to the Soldiers' Bible Fund, and street speakers took offerings; a number of specially prepared booths at the entrances to department stores and banks also gave aid. The newspapers gave generous space and co-operated in a fine way. Illustrated envelopes and receipt books were also successfully used.

Worth While

"We felt that these campaigns were well worth while. The publicity given to the general work of the Society, the co-operation of the churches, and especially that of the young people and children, the interest and help of the social, business, and financial circles in these cities and country communities, all contributed not only to the success of this particular campaign, but helped in laying deeper the foundations of the Society.

"The amount of the Army and Navy Fund forwarded to New York was twenty-one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two dollars and eighty-one cents (\$21,832.81). This, however, is not the total amount raised, as it does not include the gifts of the year before nor what has come in after the close of the year."

The Methodist Centenary

Concerning his efforts in connection with the Methodist Centenary, Mr. Mell writes:

Secretarial Travels

"After traveling in the Coast states the forepart of the year in the general service of the Agency, we were loaned by the American Bible Society for the Methodist Centenary work. Inasmuch as the American Bible Society is in the financial Centenary budget of the Methodist Episcopal Church, it was only right that our Society should give special aid to the Centenary effort. In June we left for the Centenary meeting at Columbus, O., and from there to New York, where we spent several months in the Office headquarters working as an editor in the stereopticon slide department.

Crowds

"The district superintendents and pastors gave us loyal and enthusiastic support. The Centenary meetings were attended by large crowds and the attendance at the evening services always taxed the church and public halls to capacity. In several places the pictures and addresses were given outdoors; as many as three thousand people attended these public-square meetings."

Victory through the Wonderful Words of Life

During his travels in Iowa, Secretary Mell had the privilege of spending a few days with his aged father and was by his side when he was called to his reward in heaven. Mr. Mell's beautiful description of the home-going will be appreciated by all our readers. He says:

"Though I sat near he did not realize it. He consciously walked in the Valley of Death alone, save for the presence of Christ.

"We never realized as we did that night the strengthening power of the Word of God for man in his battle with the last enemy. It was a conflict across 'No-man's-land.' As this aged father went into his last struggle it was with the strength of

immortal youth, and the secret of that power was seen in these words, which he repeated again and again: 'I hear the Lord say, "I am with thee, be not afraid"; "I will fear no evil"; "The Lord is my refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble"; "Who shall stand?"; "I am ready for this day"; "Thou, oh Christ, art all I want; more than life in thee I find"; "What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"; "I am prepared to go"; "He waves!"; "The sun shines! The sun shines!"

"Thus he entered the dark Valley, but for him it was not night. It was the morning of an eternal day, wherein the unclouded sun shines. Our dear father, eighty-three years of age, found the wonderful words of life giving unfaltering faith, undaunted courage, and a song in the night, as he met and conquered death.

"We left that hallowed room with a new appreciation of the promises of God. As we contrasted that death with the experiences of those who have never heard these words of life, we felt a new determination to spread the glad tidings of the Saviour to earth's remotest bounds."

Southwestern Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. J. J. MORGAN
1304 Commerce Street, Dallas, Tex.

Established 1907. Field: Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Circulation in 1918, 83,972 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1907, 912,289 volumes.

This Agency, with its four important states and extensive territory, was a hive of busy activities during the year under review. In addition to the regular work of Scripture distribution special attention was given to the campaign for raising funds to supply our soldiers with the Word of God. Secre-

tary Morgan records several touching instances of self-denial in order to help along in this important task. A unique feature of the campaign in this Agency was the assistance of ten or more Army chaplains in making addresses for the War Scripture Fund. The following quotations from Mr. Morgan's full report give a glimpse of this and other methods employed. We read:

Chaplains Campaigning for the Testament Fund

"By far the greatest success attained in our campaign for funds was through the efforts of a few picked Army chaplains. We are indebted to our field agent in Arkansas for carrying this plan to its greatest success; however, much was done also in Texas and Oklahoma in this way.

"Patriotic services on Sunday in which all denominations united were held in towns and communities. At these the chaplains were engaged to speak in behalf of the Army Testament Fund of the American Bible Society. They did not hesitate to emphasize the important work of the Society and call upon the people to give liberally, that their men and all the Army might be supplied with the khaki Testament.

Mrs. Esther A. Bonham

"Special mention should also be made of the excellent services rendered our Army and Navy campaign by Mrs. Esther H. Bonham, of Little Rock. This woman of God took the cause on her heart, prayed about it, wrote letters to her friends, and made personal appeals in meetings and elsewhere, furnishing thereby hundreds of Testaments for soldiers. May the Lord reward her liberally!

Shelling Peas to Give Khaki Testaments

"Responses to appeals in the papers were interesting. One little child sent us a quarter, in a letter

written with his own hand, saying that he made the twenty-five cents shelling peas for his mother. 'A little child shall lead them.'

Doing Without New Shoes

"A stenographer sent in \$10 and said: 'I have decided that soldiers need Testaments worse than I need new shoes (though I need them badly). Put this ten dollars in your Army Testament Fund. I will do without.'

A Happy Experience

"Seeing a soldier trying to read an English Bible, and noting the difficulty experienced in the effort, Mr. Brown inquired as to his nationality, and found him to be a Lithuanian. The soldier's joy knew no bounds when Mr. Brown furnished him with a Bible in his native tongue.

Missing Mess to Read the Bible

"Stumbling off down the street, the soldier (without lifting his eyes from the familiar pages) went direct to his barracks and read until a late hour, regardless of the fact that he had missed mess that evening. A few days later he returned to the 'Y' secretary with another Lithuanian soldier, whom he had discovered in another unit. The newcomer was also supplied with a Bible in Lithuanian. Both men confided to the 'Y' secretary that the Bibles were the first literature they had seen in their own language since coming to America, seven years ago. Mr. Brown also says:

In the Army Hospitals

" 'But it was in the Army Hospitals of the training camps that the Testaments were most appreciated. Literally thousands were comforted and saved by reading God's Word, given them by the

Bible Society. Many breathed their last during the "flu" epidemic, with the little khaki Testament under their pillow, or on the table near by, and went to meet God in peace.'

Our Polyglot Army—Thirty-eight in One

"Although it was in overseas service that the little khaki book was most appreciated by the 'dough boys,' yet a most valuable work was done in the home camps while they were in training.

"The following list was furnished Mr. Colquette by Mr. Brown, the 'Y' educational secretary at Camp Pike, Arkansas, and the most interesting fact about it is that these men were all furnished with Scriptures in their own tongue by the American Bible Society:

Armenian.....	2	French.....	234	Poles.....	213
Assyrian.....	1	German.....	465	Portuguese....	117
Austrian.....	49	Greek.....	77	Roumanian...	7
Belgian.....	20	Hebrew.....	50	Russian.....	210
Bohemian.....	234	Hungarian....	36	Scottish.....	4
Bulgarian.....	3	Indian.....	1	Slovak.....	118
Canadian.....	1	Irish.....	8	Spanish.....	5
Croatian.....	4	Italian.....	235	Swedish.....	204
Danish.....	62	Lithuanian...	31	Swiss.....	111
Dutch.....	15	Mexican.....	6	Syrian.....	17
Filipino.....	1	Montenegrins.	2	Turkish.....	7
Finnish.....	21	Norwegian....	209	Welsh.....	4
Flemish.....	2	Persian.....	1		

A Good Text-book for Foreigners in the Army Camps

"Many foreign-speaking soldiers, and English-speaking soldiers, also, could not read; but that was not a permanent hindrance, for the Y. M. C. A. taught them, and, in some cases, Uncle Sam taught them.

"F. K. Ringsmuth, our former colporteur, was taken over by the government for special work among foreigners in the training camps, and naturally he adopted the Bible as a text-book when it was necessary to instruct ignorant soldiers."

The Year's Regular Work

The usual established work of the Agency was not

neglected at the expense of the war work, as the following summary shows:

Volumes of Scripture distributed.....	83,972
Volumes of Scripture donated.....	4,183
Colporteurs and correspondents employed.....	25
Days spent by them in service.....	1,420
Miles traveled by them.....	13,927
Towns and villages visited.....	208

The Circulation

In 1917 the circulation reached the remarkable figure of 221,431 volumes, due to the exceptional opportunities for work among the 180,000 American soldiers on the Mexican border and to the distribution of nearly 40,000 Spanish Scriptures to the Mexican refugees who swarmed across the Rio Grande because of the Mexican revolution. The circulation of 1918 (83,972) is far below that of the previous year; but, considering the handicaps, it is no mean showing. These 83,972 volumes were carefully placed and widely scattered, as the following extracts indicate.

Scriptures Distributed in Thirty-six Languages

“The languages in which Scriptures were circulated by our depository and regular forces clearly demonstrate the great missionary value of our work, and are an indication of what a lighthouse of divine truth the Bible House can be.

“When it is realized that no missionary work can be carried on successfully without Scriptures in the languages of the people the missionary is trying to reach, it is evident how dependent missionaries are upon the Bible Society. That there should be calls for the Bible in thirty-six languages here in the Southwest, and some of them in ever-increasing quantities, is a great big story in itself.

Voluntary Workers

“A voluntary worker is one who distributes Scriptures simply and purely for the good he may do,

without hope of reward or pay for his services. It is delightful to note that these workers are not all of them well-to-do, hunting up some sort of philanthropy just to pass away the time; but, rather, from the laboring class, and especially those who tithe. We give a few examples by way of illustration:

A Street-car Conductor

“A concrete example is a street-car conductor who conceived the idea of putting the Gospel of St. John in the hands of every car man in Dallas. Every week he spent the tenth of his income for this purpose and continued in a most systematic manner to carry on his campaign until every street-railway employee who would promise to read the Gospel had been supplied with it.

A Railway Conductor

“Another example is that of a railway conductor who travels out of Dallas on the cotton-belt route. He is a great, big, jolly, one hundred per cent American. He buys our cheap eight-cent Testaments by the dozen and distributes them to passengers along the way, to railway section hands, or to any who show interest in reading the Scripture. Mind you, he does not sell these books; he gives them away. He is a sower of the seed.

A Newsboy

“And now let me tell you of a newsboy. I must explain that this ‘boy’ is in the neighborhood of sixty years of age. He is a poor fellow who has wasted himself in ‘riotous living,’ but who has come to his senses and now desires to make every day count for God and his kingdom. For months and months he has been buying Gospels in English and Spanish to give away to the down-and-out, or Mexicans and negroes—his only condition being a promise to care for the book and read it.

The West Texas Drouth

“This story would be incomplete without recording something of the drouth in West Texas. For a space of three years there was no rain. Cattle died by the hundreds and thousands, towns were deserted, and farmers left their homes to seek a livelihood wherever it could be found.

They Wanted Bibles

“Hungry and discouraged, there was a turning to God and his Word such as had not been known before. Revivals broke out as a result of searching the Scriptures, and scores and hundreds were led to say with Job: ‘Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.’ And then came the rain!

Grants of Scriptures

“We have just mentioned the calls for Scripture from the drouth-stricken regions of Texas. In addition there were unusual needs throughout the Agency, and since our colportage work was so limited we made special effort to answer calls that were found to be genuine in their need. The grants went to numerous individuals and homes among the poor, as well as to various charitable institutions, jails, penitentiaries, mission churches, and Sunday schools. Our files are filled with words of appreciation, all of which we treasure most highly.

Looking Forward

“We face the year 1919 under very different circumstances from those detailed in this story. The war is ended; the presses of the Bible House at New York are no longer running day and night in the effort to print sufficient khaki Testaments. Are they resting? Far from it. They are busy trying to provide the Home Agencies with so many of the popular books that had to be sidetracked last year

for lack of paper and presses. And now, with an increased appropriation, and with a quickened faith in the power of God's Word, we plan an advance in the circulation of the Scriptures in every part of this great field."

Eastern Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. H. J. SCUDDER, B.D.
137 Montague Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Established 1908. Field: The State of New York and neighboring regions not otherwise cared for. Circulation during the year 1918, 30,093. Aggregate circulation since 1908, 542,609.

Mr. Scudder reports a most interesting year, particularly in connection with the Army and Navy Fund campaign, and in the visitation of Debarkation Hospitals in and about New York City, of which a striking account is given in his report. Limited funds for the general work and the needs and opportunities of the Army and Navy combined to emphasize the latter. However, a distribution of 30,093 copies of the Scriptures, 3,157 being Bibles, 9,673 Testaments, and 17,263 portions, in 39 languages and dialects, was accomplished through the help of 13 workers, 15,926 families being visited.

In 1917 the circulation totaled 58,427 volumes, nearly double the 1918 circulation. In addition to the reasons prevailing in the other Agencies for a decreased distribution in the year under review, a considerable reduction was due to the comparatively small amount of open-air work carried on in Brooklyn and vicinity in 1918 because of war restrictions.

Army and Navy Campaign Work

The Advisory Committee and the Secretary of the Eastern Agency devoted much time and thought to the problem of how to reach churches and individuals with a knowledge of the Society's needs.

A Personal-work "Endless Chain"

After much thought and prayer a personal-work circular was adopted and widely distributed at Bible Classes, prayer meetings and church services through the efforts of members of the Advisory Committee, the Agency Secretary and his assistants. This appeal asked for a dollar or more from the person receiving it, but also requested each recipient to distribute by personal effort four copies of the appeal to four friends or acquaintances, and to request each of them to give a dollar or more toward the work, and secure four friends to do the same, and so on indefinitely. It was in reality a personal-work "endless chain," and proved very helpful and successful in enlisting the prayers, sympathies and gifts of many widely scattered lovers of the Word.

The Poughkeepsie and Gloversville Campaigns

The second method for soliciting funds was the employment of a campaign manager, who made his headquarters for a month or more in a large city to get in personal touch with the churches of that city and vicinity. Mr. W. H. Mead was engaged for this form of effort. The first center selected was Poughkeepsie, where Mr. Mead, assisted by his daughter, Mrs. Avis Austin, labored faithfully and persistently among churches and individuals for about two months.

The next center selected was Gloversville, N. Y. Leaving Mrs. Austin in Poughkeepsie to follow up the beginning that had been made, Mr. Mead was transferred to Gloversville, and was assisted for a week by the Agency Secretary.

Influenza Epidemic

This pernicious epidemic spread all over the State of New York, and interfered with all our fall and winter plans for getting in personal touch with the churches. As a last resort 600 personal letters to as

many pastors of several denominations were sent forth requesting assistance for the Society's war work. A stamped and addressed envelope was inclosed with the appeal, but only about 100 replies were received, the remaining 500 pastors being either "too busy," or not sufficiently interested to favor us with a reply. Just \$600 was received from the churches and pastors that responded.

From Gloversville Mr. Mead visited Amsterdam, and interested the ministers of that city in the Society's important war service. As a campaign in Amsterdam at that time did not seem advisable, it was agreed that the work be presented in all the churches during October. Careful and extensive arrangements were made during the summer months, but when we were about to start for Amsterdam a telegram was received stating that all public meetings had been forbidden on account of the influenza epidemic! Thus all our carefully-laid plans and preliminary expenses counted for naught.

The total from all sources amounts to \$6,426.50, so far as we have been able to trace the contributions, many of which were sent direct to the New York office.

The Year's Colportage Work

In his report, Mr. Scudder says:

"With January, 1918, the Eastern Agency entered upon the most discouraging year of its history. The additional cut of \$1,100 in the appropriations made it necessary to reduce the colportage force to an almost negligible quantity. The valuable services of the Rev. A. M. D. Riggio had to be discontinued; also the part-time labors of Mr. Jacobellis. As a result, from February to October practically no work was done among the large Italian population in Greater New York and vicinity. As the year under review closed we were rejoiced to learn from the New York office that the appropriations of the Agency

would be considerably increased for 1919. In view of the added funds, Mr. Riggio was re-employed from October 15, 1918, and will continue during 1919. An additional worker, an earnest, wide-awake young man, Angelo B. Traina, will also devote his entire time to work among the Italians and foreigners throughout New York State during the coming year.

Remarkable Interest among Indians

“There is a remarkable interest in the Bible among Italians. The pastors of the Italian Protestant churches testify that the year 1918 was one of the most encouraging in the history of their work. Even among Catholics, Bible Classes with the Bible as a text-book are organized in many of the churches. We also learn that the Pope has recently directed every priest to read a portion of the Scriptures in the vernacular of the people every Sunday. These are certainly encouraging signs of the times.

The Colporteurs' Difficulties

“The colporteurs' sales fell from 19,823 in 1917 to 10,759 in 1918, a decrease of 9,064—nearly fifty per cent. Mr. Carlson was unable to do much work among the sailors on the water fronts because of the strictness of the war regulations. He had a pass which gave him the right and privilege to visit steamers while loading or unloading, but it took him nearly two hours to get by the various men who had to scrutinize him and his pass before he could get on a vessel. The demand for Swedish and Norwegian Scriptures was very great, but owing to lack of books could not be met.

“Mr. Findlay continued in Rochester throughout the year, and writes that 1918 ‘has been the hardest year I have ever had in the work here.’ He succeeded, however, in selling 6,254 books, and received for them \$945.42, as against 8,000 books in 1917, for which he received \$859.20.

County Fairs

"The only county fairs visited this year in the territory of the Eastern Agency were those at which Mr. Findlay had Bible booths.

"Mr. Findlay's report is in part as follows:

"This has been the hardest year I have ever had in the work here, and I suppose it was the same all over. Yet I can say that I would not have missed the lessons I have learned during the past year for anything. I personally distributed nearly 400 Testaments to soldiers, with the name of each young man



THE CHURCH BEHIND PERSHING AROUND THE EXHIBIT

on the front page in gold, and many of these boys requested that I put them on our prayer list. The other day a lady said, "Why don't you send your Bibles to Germany—the people here don't need them." Ah! how true it is, that the harvest is great, but the soul seekers are few.' "

First Premium at the Albion Fair

"Mr. Findlay visited six county fairs and had some very interesting experiences. He found the people more responsive than they were the year before, and made better sales. The Bible booth at the Albion fair was awarded the first premium for the best exhibit at the fair. Concerning this phase of his work Mr. Findlay writes:

"Another year at the fairs has come and gone, and oh, what a change! The young men you used to see are nearly all gone, and everyone you meet seems to be trying to carry his own burden. I am hoping to have the picture of the Albion fair, with a story of the work, in next Saturday's papers. I have had the best exhibit I have ever had this year, with Pershing's pictures all over, and also a large card I had printed in large type—YOUR BOY HAS GOT A TESTAMENT, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER FELLOW? REMEMBER THE SOLDIERS' TESTAMENT FUND. There is a great change at the fairs this year; everybody seems so tender-hearted and so willing to listen when you speak to them of Christ. I am inclosing the first premium, granted for our exhibit at the Albion fair. I can tell you, we had a show all our own.' "

The Secretary's Activities

The work of the Secretary during 1918 was out of the ordinary. Early in the year, owing to the serious illness of the office assistant, and also to the solicitations of help for the Army and Navy Bible Fund, he was confined closely to the office for the first three

months. Then for a month from April 8th he traveled extensively in connection with the Army and Navy campaign.

Owing to the serious illness of Dr. Fox, in March, and his inability to carry on his work at the Bible House, the Eastern Agency was asked to loan the services of its Secretary to assist Dr. Haven in the tremendous pressure that was upon him, owing to the double duties he was compelled to carry because of Dr. Fox's illness. For two months and a half—from the middle of June to the end of July, and again throughout September—Mr. Scudder's time was mainly devoted to the work at the Bible House, New York, in connection with which the 1918 "STORY" was edited and published.

Army and Navy Debarkation Hospitals

During December and lapping over into January, 1919, Mr. Scudder had the privilege and pleasure of visiting a number of the Debarkation Hospitals, for the purpose of keeping the chaplains or Red Cross workers amply supplied with all the Scriptures needed for our wounded heroes. Space does not permit an extended recital of the interesting conversations Mr. Scudder and his co-worker, Mr. B. Carlson, had during their visits. For a full account the reader is referred to the *Bible Society Record* of February, 1919, or to the *103rd Annual Report* of the Society. Mr. Scudder writes:

"A few instances will suffice to show of what stuff 'our boys' are made, and how the living Word has counted with them.

Blood-stained Testaments

"Many men told us that they had carried a Testament for some time at the front, but had lost it when wounded. One said: 'My Testament was so soaked with blood that I had to throw it away, and I am very

glad to have another.' Another showed Mr. Carlson his blood-stained Testament and said he would not part with it for anything. Still another showed him a Testament the center of which had been bored out by a piece of shrapnel that seemed to have had a spinning motion, and acted like a drill. After cutting a clean hole through the Testament, leaving a border of less than half an inch, the bit of shrapnel wounded the soldier severely in his chest. His life was undoubtedly saved by that American Bible Society khaki Testament!

"Lucky," though Maimed

"The many remarkable experiences and untold sufferings of these brave men will never be fully recorded. The great majority of them were cheerful, and spoke of their luck. One who had lost a leg said: 'I was lucky not to have lost them both.' Another said: 'As I was lying flat on my stomach, with shells flying all around me, I heard a cry from behind me—"Say, Buddy, help me a bit, will you?" I knew the lad had been wounded, so I twisted round on my stomach and when my feet were where my head had been a shell struck near my feet and it seemed as though I was blown twenty feet through the air. One foot is gone, but it is lucky my head wasn't where my feet had been!' Another, who had had one arm shattered and both legs wounded, observed: 'I am lucky to have the use of one hand.'

Some Experiences

"Another, holding himself up on his elbow on the bed to give his back a rest and change, related how he went 'over the top' at Chateau-Thierry. As he was crawling along on his stomach he felt a terrible burning sensation in his hip. Weak and fainting, he crawled into a shell hole and lay there in agony for six hours before assistance could be rendered. 'While I

was there,' he said, 'another lad crawled in, pulled out his pencil and a piece of paper, and tried to write something. There were only two words written, and they could not be made out, and then he died right near my side. Another crawled in, and together we prayed that no shell would fall into our place of refuge. Give me that bag, if you will, and I will show you what the doctor took out of my hip.' He fished out a piece of metal as large as an egg, with rough, cruel sides, and said it had been in his flesh for hours before it was taken out, and that it was red hot when it entered. He was a Catholic lad and had carried his Testament with him 'over the top.'

The Boys Read their Testaments

"To my question, 'Was your Testament a comfort to you? Did you and the boys find time to read?' he said, 'Yes, the boys read their Testaments and they all prayed, especially when the shells were raining about them. Life will be different to us fellows after facing death as we have "over there!"'

"It was very interesting to find that the large majority of soldiers had been supplied with Testaments. Roughly speaking, about eighty per cent of the boys had received some portion of the Word of God. Those who had not been supplied were usually eager to have a copy of the little khaki Testament. Two lads told me they did not care for a Testament, but after a short chat each accepted one and promised to read it.

Blind Heroes to Have Embossed Bibles

"One morning we found two heroes who had been blinded in battle. One of them had lost the sight of both eyes, both his legs were partially paralyzed, and one arm was badly wounded, so he only had the use of one hand. The other soldier was able to distin-

guish light from darkness with only one eye. When asked whether they would like to have the Word of God in embossed type when they learned to read, both exclaimed they would be only too glad to have a copy. We have their names and will endeavor to keep in touch with these men."

Carrying his Testament, though Unable to Read

One of the most interesting experiences Mr. Carlson had was with a man who, when asked if he had a New Testament, answered: "Oh, yes! I have carried it very carefully 'over the top' and wherever I went." In reply to the inquiry as to whether he had read it he said rather sheepishly: "No, I did not read it." "Well, why not?" "Because I don't know how to read; but I liked to feel it in my pocket, for it was a comfort to me, and I felt it was a protection in danger." To him, as to thousands of others, the Testament was a visible evidence and assurance of the presence and reality of God. If there was anything of God anywhere around, the "boys" wanted this with them in battle. Mr. Carlson offered to read to this illiterate soldier from the Testament, and he gratefully accepted. After listening awhile to some of the Psalms, and the Saviour's wonderful words of life, the man exclaimed: "My! that is very beautiful, and as soon as I get well I am going to learn to read so that I can read the Bible for myself."

Central Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. FRANK MARSTON, D.D.
424 Elm Street, Cincinnati, O.

Established 1909. Field: Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. Circulation in 1918, 52,039 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1909, 683,513 volumes.

The year 1918 was the first year of Mr. Marston's service as Secretary of this Agency, and it was certainly one of hard apprenticeship. A limited staff,

decreased funds, intense cold, heatless Mondays, churchless Sundays, transportation delays, influenza, and lack of Scriptures, were some of the handicaps that had to be faced. However 52,039 volumes—of which 6,840 were Bibles, 23,158 Testaments, and 22,041 portions—in 22 languages, were put into circulation, as against 65,508 in 1917. The decrease was due “not to lack of demand, for the call for Scriptures was never so great,” but to the causes above enumerated.

The Year's Work

Mr. Marston writes:

“I presume it might be interesting to relate some of the incidents, and describe some of the conditions, of the Central Agency's work during 1918. I shall begin with the work in Ohio. I was never so much impressed with the polyglot character of the state's population as during this past year. Possibly Ohio is not near the site of ancient Babel; but, nevertheless, we have here the confusion of tongues. A man in Canton sends an order for Scriptures in twenty-three different languages.

An Order for 25,000 Roumanian Bibles

“The Roumanians of Akron asked the Society for 25,000 Roumanian Bibles. It was my privilege to visit that Roumanian colony and preach to them through an interpreter. I have never seen a body of men more in earnest about anything than were those men in the matter of getting the Bible in their own tongue. And now, after many weary months of waiting, the Bibles are ready for them, and they can read the ‘wonderful works of God in the tongue wherein they were born.’ Much credit is certainly due the Bible Society for bringing out these foreign Scriptures, for it had to be done by a special photographic process that made it very expensive. De-

mands for these foreign-language Scriptures come to us continually from all over the state of Ohio.

Kentucky

"Kentucky is a rich field for the sowing of the Word of God. At present I have only two full-time colporteurs in this state, with four half-time men.

"I have just transferred the Rev. J. A. Morgan from Tennessee, where he did a splendid piece of work, to the river counties of western Kentucky. In answer to my request for some of his experiences he writes: 'Had usual experience of rain, snow, mud, sunshine, springtime, seedtime, drouth, and harvest; sometimes pleasant, sometimes otherwise; sometimes good roads, sometimes bad. You may be assured I will do my best and continue in the work if I can make both ends meet.' I may say here that Mr. Morgan has been in the habit of occasionally returning one-half his month's salary for the work of the Bible Society, with instructions to 'put it where it will do the most good.'

Apostolic Labors of Mrs. Andrews

"One of the most needy parts of this great state is the mountain section. I have had two full-time colporteurs here part of the time, Mrs. H. M. Andrews and the Rev. John L. Centers. The work of Mrs. Andrews was almost apostolic, missionary in the truest sense of the word. Taking the Scriptures into Bibleless homes, praying with the family, visiting the sick, and even burying the dead, she literally carried these mountain people on her heart. She worked in the midst of perils in the mountains and in the valleys, and crossed swollen streams on dangerous footbridges to reach Bibleless homes in the mining quarters or in the deep recesses of the mountains. Leading whole families to Christ, establishing women's prayer meetings, teaching them how to pray,

escaping only with her life from a roaring torrent that swept away the stock of Bibles she tried in vain to save, she did a great work for the Bible Society and for God. It was with great regret that, on account of scarcity of funds, I had to let this noble Christian woman leave our service.

In Mountain Mining Camps

"Mr. Centers, too, is doing a splendid work in the mountains of this state. The influenza played havoc in his community. He writes in October: 'Not worked this month. Everything completely blocked.' New families are coming into these coal fields from all parts of the country, many without Bibles or even a Testament.

Tennessee

"I have had six workers in Tennessee for all or part of the time. Those engaged for full time, however, had to be laid off for part of the season on account of scarcity of funds with which to pay them.

"Mr. W. A. Young had more than he could do supplying with the Scriptures the workers of the munition plant at Nashville. They bought eagerly, and many of them told him that he was selling them the first copy of the Scriptures they had ever owned. It was difficult to keep him supplied with the eight-cent Testament for these men. He writes me that during the four years he has been in Nashville he has sold or given away over sixty thousand copies of the Scriptures, either in or around the city.

Alabama

"Our force has been very small in this state. We ought to have a large corps of workers here, both in the mountain section and the great industrial centers. As it happens, we have had only one laborer in the whole state. One of the Mobile pastors writes me that it is a very needy field. It is strongly Roman

Catholic and most of these people are without the Scriptures; yet they should have the Word offered to them, at least.

Mississippi

“This is another rich field for Bible work in which but little has been done, lately, for the very reason mentioned so often in this report—‘No funds.’ I was so thankful for a slight increase this time, in order that I might be able to do something for this field. A letter appealing for help has reached me from the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Ten Years in Purgatory for Attending a Protestant Sunday School

“The request comes for Scriptures for a little struggling church and Sunday school in the home of a good woman who is trying to do something for her neighbors and their children. She has opened her house for a Sunday school—the only Protestant Sunday school in the town. A priest told a little girl that it would take him ten years to pray her soul out of purgatory for attending this Sunday school. I shall try to do something to help this struggling little band.

“There was never a time when the Bible was so badly needed as now. More and more are men coming to see that it is impossible to live by ‘bread alone,’ and that the living Word of God is the only hope of the world.”

Atlantic Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. FRANK P. PARKIN, D.D.
701 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Established 1910. Field: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Circulation in 1918, 159,760 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1910, 1,607,046 volumes.

With a limited force of only eleven workers and a number of volunteers, 159,760 volumes of the

Bible were put in circulation during 1918, a decrease of 42,324 as compared with 1917. Due to the financial situation, Dr. Parkin had to make a complete readjustment of the work and workers. Considerable attention was given to the raising of money for the War Scripture Fund, and much other good work was accomplished during the year, as the following excerpts from Dr. Parkin's report indicate:

The Army and Navy Campaign

"While disappointed in our persistent efforts to secure the inclusion of the Army and Navy cause in the budget of the 'War Chest' for Philadelphia and vicinity, no time was lost in getting our appeal before the people of the three states included in this Agency. Notwithstanding the multitude of appeals for war purposes and for special denominational campaigns, the lovers of God's Word responded generously to the urgent calls of the American Bible Society. We are recognized as the historic interdenominational Bible Society, and this proud position is one from which we are not to be deposed.

Our Colporteurs

"Although these consecrated workers have been greatly handicapped during the year because of their inability to secure copies of the Scriptures in many different foreign languages, they have, nevertheless, not been idle.

"Mr. Gay, who for nearly two decades has done splendid service in Pittsburgh and vicinity among the foreigners employed in the steel, coal, and coke industries, has been paying special attention to the colored population, which has greatly increased there through immigration from the southern states. He reports a great and inviting field among these people. They show a truer knowledge of and reverence for the Bible than do many of the foreigners who have

come from southeastern Europe. The growth of ultrasocialistic views among so many of these foreign laborers is proving an obstacle to the work of our colporteurs.

“Many interesting experiences in seeking to circumvent the objections which he meets in trying to gain access to their homes and hearts are reported by Mr. Gay. By his tact and knowledge of human nature, as well as his familiarity with apt passages of the Scriptures, he has had many signal victories over the forces of evil.

“Two other colporteurs, Israel Moses Joy, a native of India, and the Rev. Mr. Edwards, a colored pastor, have been employed on part time. These men have labored among the colored populations of Chester, Pa., Wilmington, Del., and other points, with good results.

Shipyards and Munition Plants

“During this year the great shipyards along the Delaware have been teeming with humanity, and the same has been true of the munition plants. While government regulations were such that our colporteurs could not readily gain access to these men while at work, the Rev. A. M. Lewis, one of our experienced colporteurs, systematically visited the many villages and towns that sprang up everywhere, and presented the claims of God’s Book.

Voluntary Workers

“The advice to seek to raise up a new generation of voluntary workers, who will feel their responsibility for canvassing their own neighborhoods and parishes in the effort to provide every family with a copy of God’s Word, we have sought to follow. Many of our pastors have a growing vision of the possibilities for great usefulness in this work of Bible distribution. The field is almost unlimited, and every influence

is brought to bear to secure such men and women as will help and not hinder in this important service.

College Students

“One of the encouraging signs of the times is the increased attention being given through college faculties and college Y. M. C. A.’s to the enrollment of college students in Bible Classes. In the University of Pennsylvania great help—both direct and indirect—has been given by the provost of the University, Dr. E. F. Smith, and many of the professors in connection with the University Y. M. C. A.

“As far as my secretarial duties would permit, I have tried to encourage this movement, believing it was fraught with possibilities of untold good for the student, the University, the community and the American Bible Society, in its many direct and indirect forms of influence.

County Bible Societies

“The number and activity of the various county Bible societies and various local auxiliaries justify a reference to their place of great usefulness in the spread of God’s Word.

“Some of these societies have relapsed into inactivity or indifference. By correspondence and direct visitation, however, we have sought to secure a reorganization wherever possible. Several of the county societies in New Jersey have entered upon the second century of their history, and are showing a most commendable interest in the work.

Depositories

“The Southwestern Department is under the care of the Rev. J. Walker Miller. It includes the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland, in Pennsylvania, under the

supervision of the Young Men's Bible Society of Allegheny County. The depository has been removed to No. 2018 Jenkins Arcade, Pittsburgh. Mr. Miller has been the devoted, conscientious agent in charge of this work for many years past, and the center has come to be the recognized distributing point for this section of the state.

"The Rev. H. G. Harned, the veteran superintendent of the Northeast Branch, with headquarters at 124 Washington Ave., Scranton, Pa., keeps careful oversight of the work in the counties of Bradford, Lackawanna, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming. The Lackawanna Bible Society maintains an active organization.

"At Wilkes-Barre Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Stone, in connection with the Luzerne County Bible Society, faithfully represent the interests of the Bible cause."

THE FOREIGN AGENCIES



"PASS IT ON"

In the following review of the Society's work in foreign lands the reader will find evidences of the remarkable awakening caused by the world war among the uncivilized peoples of non-Christian lands. They are reaching out to America and Great Britain, particularly, for a helping hand, and for the Book which has made these countries the most enlightened and magnanimous nations of the earth.

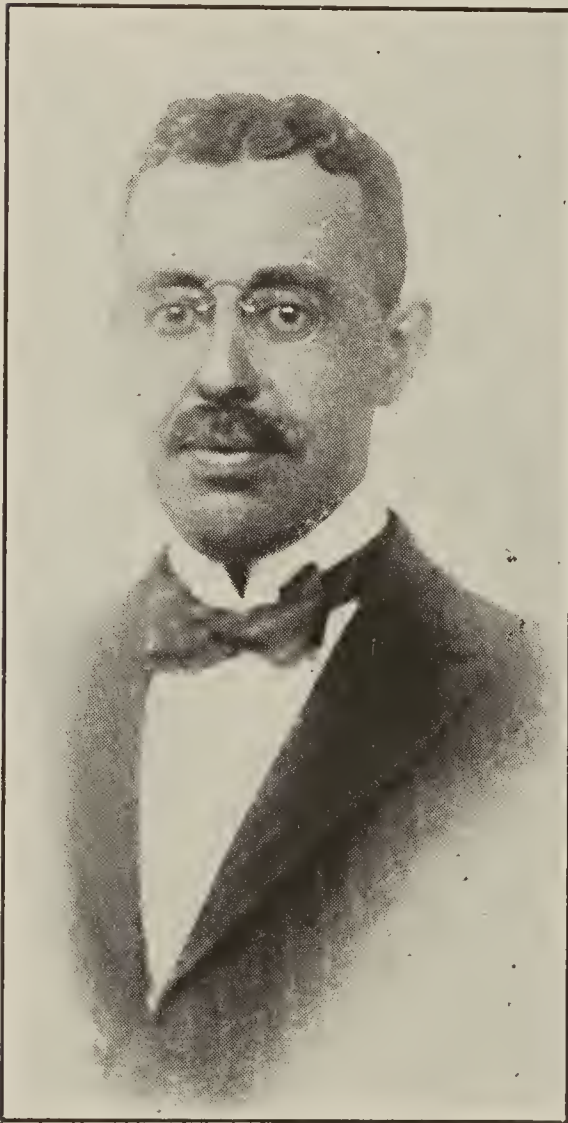
In Asia and Africa, nations are in the forming, and deep undertones of a restless desire for better things are everywhere apparent. Truly this is an age of unprecedented opportunity for the fulfillment of the Master's great commission to preach the gospel to all the nations. This commission can be most effectively carried out by means of the printed page.

The West Indies Agency

Agency Secretary: JOSÉ MARCIAL-DORADO, PH.D.
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Established in Cuba and Porto Rico in 1898. Field: Cuba, Porto Rico, Haiti, Dominican Republic, the Islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, and the Virgin Islands. Circulation in 1918, 11,051 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1898, 746,338 volumes.

The first report of the new Secretary, José Marcial-Dorado, Ph.D., covers a period of a little less than six months, during which time he traveled extensively



DR. JOSÉ MARCIAL-DORADO
THE SOCIETY'S AGENT FOR THE WEST INDIES

to get acquainted with his field and to secure first-hand information about the mission fields and their needs. Dr. Marcial-Dorado sailed from New York on July 8, 1918, and has prosecuted his work with great earnestness and consecration. He was born in Cadiz, Spain, in 1880. His father was a Presbyterian minister, who was sent to Africa under the auspices of the Scotch Mission to be a missionary in Algiers. After many years of very successful work in Oran he was appointed representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Spain.

Mr. Marcial-Dorado worked his way

through the University of Madrid by helping in the central office of the Bible Society of Madrid, Spain, and during his apprenticeship he received from the University the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy and Literature.

After the completion of his studies at the University the Bible Society, under the Rev. Mr. Jameson, appointed him inspector of colporteurs, and he was also appointed president of the Y. M. C. A. in Madrid. It was at that time that Mr. Marcial-Dorado began a very successful religious campaign. He wrote for the newspapers and gave lectures throughout the country, and was prosecuted and menaced by the fanatic element. In 1904 he was arrested for preaching the gospel on the streets. He made his own defense in court, and was dismissed, after being complimented by the judge and jury.

This experience of his life made him interested in law, and when the American Bible Society called him to this country he was about to take his last examinations in order to become a lawyer.

Mr. Marcial-Dorado is well known in Spain as a writer and orator, and also on account of his interest and efficient help in the religious development of the country. He has prominent friends among the higher classes in Spain, and has helped nobly the working classes in the country. He is especially well known and liked among the miners in the English districts.

We believe the Society to be particularly favored in the coming of Dr. Marcial to its staff, and look forward with hope to his service in this Spanish-speaking field of great needs and opportunities.

Concerning the six months of his labors, Dr. Marcial-Dorado writes:

“My first duty was to know the mission fields and their needs, and my second to know the social elements that are not in direct contact with the missions:

that is, teachers, professional men, writers, etc. My knowledge of the Latin race and my experience in Spanish countries has shown me the need of knowing the higher classes, really the ones that are farther apart from religious life and religious activities, but nevertheless very influential and worth knowing.

Porto Rico

“In Porto Rico, one of the islands where the circulation of the Bible has been greater, the influence of the gospel is very noticeable. I shall always remember with a great deal of gratitude and satisfaction the kind welcome given me by the missionaries in Porto Rico. I also visited all of the members of the American government and all the schools; in addition I wrote for the newspapers. The civil and military authorities and journalists were very kind to me, indeed. I worked with the Y. M. C. A. in order to help the soldiers and the training camps for officers.

Great Demand for the Scriptures

“Our missionaries and our workers increased their orders in such a way that our small supply was soon exhausted. All the letters from our agents brought the same plea: ‘More books—please send us more books!’ Our sub-Agent, Mr. Drury, wrote to me saying, ‘The demand for books is so great that we sincerely hope the American Bible Society will soon increase the appropriation for this territory.’ The Rev. Mr. Archilla said to me, ‘We are in a critical period—it is evident that the time has come when the people are anxious to read the Bible, and we are not in a position to meet their demands.’

“The missionary work in Porto Rico is spreading and naturally the demand for more Bibles keeps increasing. Besides this phase there are others well worth noticing. Persons of the higher circles, both

in the American and Spanish colonies, are persuaded of the need for an increasing circulation of the Bible in Porto Rico.

Testimony of Public Men

“The Hon. Mr. Yager, governor of Porto Rico, in speaking to me said: ‘I fully appreciate the importance of the circulation of the Bible; that kind of work is not only religious, but also instructive.’ One of the leading newspaper men said to me: ‘The Bible has strongly influenced the American character, and we assure you that that book is becoming more and more needed in this island.’

“In one of my trips an old man who lived in a hut near a sugar central showed me a New Testament, practically worn out. He had read it every day since a young man and had taught his grandchildren to read in it.

Santo Domingo

“Santo Domingo is another field where the need of a circulation of the Bible has increased greatly. American intervention has succeeded in restoring peace and safety to the country, and missionary work is progressing there. Many workers have asked me for books. The Spanish-speaking people are anxious to read the gospel, but, unfortunately, Spanish-speaking missionaries are very scarce. There are only a few churches for Spanish-speaking people in the north side of the island.

“There is nothing in the south, however, and the Porto Rican brethren want to help Santo Domingo by sending missionaries; that is why they were so insistent about books. There is a great opportunity in Santo Domingo, not only for missionaries but for the American Bible Society. It was my good fortune to witness the eagerness of the people there to hear the gospel. Many volunteered to go through the village and sugar central, selling Bibles.

The War Emphasizes the Need of the Human Soul

"We helped the Y. M. C. A. as much as possible. We helped soldiers, especially, among whom we found a great number of eager youths ready to study the gospel and to receive the divine message. We met many who read the Bible in their free time, and also those who wanted to have some difficult passages explained to them.

"A very intelligent Colombian merchant said to me last December: 'It is quite remarkable how the war has brought upon the human soul a deeper need of faith.' He was right, and I am convinced that this faith will make us realize the blessings of knowing our Lord—and we can only know him through this Holy Word.

Virgin Islands

"On account of the poor communications this year we were not able to do regular work in the small Virgin Islands. Nevertheless, some books have circulated by the efforts of our brethren in Porto Rico. I received a letter from an unknown brother in which he said to me: 'These divine books are very well accepted by the people here.'

The Circulation

"The circulation for the year was 11,051 volumes, as against 18,382 the year before, a decrease of 7,331—due to the lack of Scriptures and colporteurs, and not to any lack of demand for the Word of God."

Mexico

Agency Secretary: REV. A. H. MELLEN
Apartado 1373, Mexico City, Mexico

Established 1878. Field: Republic of Mexico. Circulation in 1918, 70,940 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1878, 1,210,997 volumes.

During three-fourths of the year this Agency was in charge of the Rev. W. F. Jordan, who was trans-

ferred in October to be Secretary of the Panama Canal and Central America Agency. From October the Rev. A. H. Mellen, archdeacon of the Domestic



REV. ARTHUR H. MELLEN

and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, kindly agreed to take charge of the work, and in January, 1919, was appointed Agency Secretary for Mexico.

Mr. Mellen was born in the western part of the State of New York. Later his father moved to Geneva, N. Y., where Mr. Mellen graduated at Hobart College. His home was a religious one, the family going regularly to the Episcopal Church—his father invariably having family prayers in the morning, which included a short and carefully selected Bible reading. Mr. Mellen went to the Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Va., and was ordained to the ministry by Bishop Coxe, in Geneva, N. Y. After one year as a deacon at home he went as a volunteer missionary to Cuba, where he spent two years. He then returned home and was some years in a country parish and mission work in western New York, from which he came to New York City as assistant minister at Holy Trinity Church. The death of his father required him to go back to the old farm to attend to many matters there, and especially to forest the timber, which he did, securing the services of a Canadian lumberman and purchasing a portable sawmill, working with the men himself in putting the lumber on the market. He found this a good school, teaching him many things about the management of men as well as business enterprise. Before going back into church work he traveled in Europe, and then offered himself to the Board of Missions of the church, to go wherever he was needed. The Board sent him to Mexico in the spring of 1909, and he was appointed by the bishop to do work among the English-speaking people on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Three years he was supported there by the people to whom he ministered. At the end of three years he was sent by the bishop to the city of Tampico for a year, and after that became archdeacon in charge of Mexican missions, also treasurer for the Board of Missions in the district.

Mr. Mellen feels that the work which he is now

undertaking is vital to all missionary enterprises in Mexico. His appointment has the heartiest approbation and indorsement of all of the missionary forces at work in and about the city of Mexico. We expect to hear from him from time to time, and our readers will look eagerly for his description of conditions there, and the influence of the Bible in building up a stable Christian civilization.

The Year's Circulation

As in most of the Agencies, there was a decrease in the number of Scriptures put into circulation. By way of explanation, Mr. Mellen writes:

“According to the statistics, we have again fallen below the figures of the previous year. The total number reported for the year 1917 was 97,265, including Bibles, Testaments, and portions, both sold and given away. Our records for the year 1918 show a total of 70,940. This means a falling off of 26,325.

“In Mexico, under the heading ‘portions,’ nearly all of the sales are in the form of the book of Proverbs and the Four Gospels, a package of five little paper-covered books with the Mexican colors on the cover of each. The package is supposed to sell for twenty-five *centavos*, or twelve and a half cents; but they are generally sold very much cheaper, or even given away, if there is the slightest indication that they are going to be read. The purpose in placing these in circulation is to create a desire for the whole Bible. And each one of the little books is counted as a volume in making up the total of the number placed in circulation during the year.

“In view of this, let us make a closer study of the reports for the two years 1917 and 1918. At the beginning of this article the statement was made that the two totals show a difference of 26,325 in favor of the year 1917. In what sort of books do

we find this difference? Please note the following figures:

"Number of Bibles less in 1918 than in 1917	160
" " New Testaments less in 1918 than in 1917	420
" " Portions less in 1918 than in 1917	25,745
Total.....	26,325 "

The Bible as a Companion and Friend

Mr. Mellen continues:

"Three students from the Union Theological Seminary went out during the months of November and December, and some of the facts shown by this short campaign were very interesting, giving great reason for hope in the future. In cities where evangelical churches have been for some years established, it is significant that there is very little call for the Bible in parts, or even for the New Testament. Also, the Bible is not wanted in the cheaper bindings, but in the very best leather binding that can be had. If there had been in stock on the shelves of the Agency in Mexico City a large supply of these Bibles at the end of the year the total figure of the sales for the year would have been quite different. The sales which these students made seemed to go directly from the little paper-covered Gospels to the Bibles, as the number of New Testaments sold was very small indeed. When people who are poor, or in very moderate circumstances, are willing to spend money to buy a Bible bound in leather, and on India paper, and want the size that will easily go into the pocket or a traveling bag, it means that the Bible is desired as a companion and a constant friend.

Much Open Territory for Seed Sowing

"Looking back over this last year, and then into the future, there are some very hopeful signs.

"The steady advance and firmness of all of the mission work in the country means that hundreds

of Bibles will be placed in circulation without the cost to the American Bible Society of paying colporteurs to do the work. But the places where missions are well established are like so many little dots on the map, and these missions only serve to make more clear the great open territory where the men can go and keep on going; where the seed will have to be flung to the wind; where so much will fall on good ground and bring forth an hundredfold.

A Persistent, Consecrated Tailor

“Not long ago one of the missionaries told me of one of his men, a hard-working tailor in a small village, who became interested in selling books to his neighbors for pure love of the blessed work. This man at his own expense took a rail trip to a neighboring town where missions were unknown; no one there was interested in his Gospels, and he had to pay for his meals. He made eighteen visits in the village, and paid his fare back to his home with the sale of just one New Testament to the credit of the journey. With small pay for the labor in his little shop, and his children to be fed and clothed at high prices, how could he keep on doing that sort of thing?

Conclusion

“A period of twelve months is a short time in the slow but steady progress of the great work of making the Word of God known to all the world, but it seems to me that this review of the year 1918 in the republic of Mexico should fill us with joy, and with a great enthusiasm for the progress of the work in the years to come.”

Panama Canal and Central America

Agency Secretary: REV. W. F. JORDAN
Bible House, Cristobal, Canal Zone.

Established 1892. Field: The Republics of Central America, Panama, the Canal Zone, and part of Colombia. Circulation in 1918, 39,153 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1892, 584,792 volumes.

Upon the retirement in January, 1918, of the Rev. James Hayter, who for ten years had enthusiastically developed the work of this Agency, the Rev. Dr. G. A. Miller, superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Mission in the Canal Zone, very kindly took charge of the Agency and supervised the work until the arrival in October of the Rev. W. F. Jordan, who was transferred from the work in Mexico to this Agency.

The Year's Work

Earthquakes in Guatemala, war conditions affecting the Canal Zone, restricting all visiting of boats and docks, as well as many other difficulties, were great hindrances to the work; yet the statistics show that 3,211 Bibles, 5,190 Testaments, and 30,752 portions—a total of 39,153 volumes—were distributed in 1918, as against 57,332 in 1917. The number of correspondents, colporteurs and Bible-women was 61, the copies of Scripture distributed being in 12 languages. In the course of the year's report, Mr. Jordan says:

“The few weeks that have intervened since our arrival at the Bible House have been very busy ones. Our coming was so delayed that we did not see Dr. Miller, who had been so kindly looking after the correspondence of the Society since the resignation of Mr. Hayter. The early part of the year saw Guatemala shaken with terrific and devastating earthquakes, while the year itself closed with a terrific scourge of influenza in Bogota, Colombia. The medical training of our representative, Mr. Hockings, in the missionary school in England, stood him in good

stead here, and the medical authorities in Bogota were very glad to avail themselves of his services, which were freely given in helping to care for the victims.

Earthquakes in Guatemala

"In Guatemala, Mr. Jules Duffey, brother-in-law of Mr. Hayter, has been looking after the interests of the Society. Mr. Duffey begins his report with the quotation: 'For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord.' Mr. Duffey says this verse was given to him during the visitation of the terrible earthquake.

"He writes:

" 'Thank God, we are hearing in many places of a great awakening in spiritual matters. Souls are inquiring for salvation and asking for somebody to preach the Word of God to them.

Churches the Result of Bible Distribution

" 'Several years ago I made my first trip as colporteur, traveling on horseback with Roman Hernandez. We visited the department of "El Quiche." We had a good sale of books among Indians and Ladinos. It was quite a hard experience for me, as I was not accustomed to that kind of life. Often we had to sleep on the floor or in a hammock in the Indians' huts. For many days we had nothing to eat but corn and black beans. This experience was also quite a blessed one in the Bible work. In two of the places visited then there are now congregations of believers, when at that time there were none. How important is the work! The reading of this precious Book prepares the way for the missionary.'

Honduras

"In Honduras, during the past year, we have been unable to employ colporteurs. At present Honduras

is the most neglected section of our field. Owing to the isolation of the country, we have not been able to reach it and supply its needs in any adequate sense since the war broke out. Mr. Hockings has just come in from Colombia and is starting in a few days for a trip across Honduras by mule back. The trip will probably take between three and four weeks, but he will try to get in touch with all the missionaries and establish relations with them, endeavoring to make more satisfactory arrangements for an adequate supply of books in the future.

El Salvador

“The following is the report of Mr. Leroy W. McConnell:

“This is a very small republic, averaging about 175 miles in length by 75 miles in width, but it has a large population of about a million and a half. The country is still largely dominated by the clergy, except in certain liberal districts, as you may imagine from the fact that there are two bishops and an archbishop—three in all. This year I have felt it very noticeable, however, that the people in nearly the whole republic are becoming more receptive to the gospel, and willing to take tracts or buy a cheap portion of the Bible, which will no doubt mean increased opportunities for the colporteurs soon.

Bible Corrects the Errors of Rome

“Recently we discovered a group of people in a small out-of-the-way hamlet who had bought Bibles from passing colporteurs eight or ten years ago, and had been slowly having their eyes opened, just through the Word of God, to the error of the Roman Catholic way, and to what is the true and only way. Now they are organized into a small church body and have regular services and much joy in their fellowship and confession of their Lord. Naturally, since they have been more open in their confession there has resulted

more persecution, and just recently three of them were held up by a large group of men and flogged, their Testaments being taken from them.

“‘There is another large and enthusiastic group of believers in the hills near the Honduras border, north of here; these are the direct product of the Word of God left by passing colporteurs.’

Nicaragua

“Mr. Walter H. Hooper, of Managua, has continued to act as our representative during the past year, without any charge to the Society for his services. The only colportage work has been done by the mission workers in their preaching tours. We anticipate a revival of Bible distribution as well as other mission work in this field during 1919.

Costa Rica

“In this country, also, there has been a demand for the Bible that we have not been able to supply. No colportage work has been done during the year, and the circulation has been secured through the correspondents, Mr. Boyle and the Rev. Sidney Edwards, of San Jose.

Venezuela

“During 1918 the work in these countries has been united under the superintendence of Mr. Alfred Hockings. During 1917 Mr. Hockings was in Venezuela; but throughout 1918 has had his headquarters in Bogota, Colombia. Mr. Carlos Kramer spent the first four months of 1918 in colportage work in Venezuela, but the rest of the year in Colombia, where during the first nine months he had secured a circulation of 10,019 books.

Persecution of Protestants in Colombia

“Bogota, Colombia, is another field from which active persecution has been reported. In April of



MR. ALFRED HOCKINGS ON TOUR, WITH DON BOSCO, DOÑA LOUISA AND DOÑA MAGDALENA, CROSSING THE GREAT RIVER LEMPA IN SALVADOR

this year a mob attacked the building in which services were being held, breaking in the door and attempting to injure the workers. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. In October the terrible epidemic of influenza struck the city, and Mr. Hockings reports that a great change was noticed in the attitude of the people toward the mission workers when they saw them giving their services so freely to help fight the dreadful scourge.

The Terrible Influenza Scourge

“To quote from Mr. Hockings’ letter of November 9th:

“ ‘The deaths have been on an average of 150 a day, and when we think that this city has only 150,000 to 200,000 inhabitants, you will see that it has been very serious. In just two weeks over 1,500 have been buried, and the deaths keep up to 50 a day still. However, the worst has been passed, and we

think that by the end of this month things should be normal again. All the missionaries without exception have been down with it, and we three colporteurs were down at the same time. However, we have also recovered, for which we thank God.

Pills in Return for Stones

“ ‘The great poverty has made sales almost impossible, but we hope to begin again next week. Other missionaries have also been visiting the sick in the *barrios*, where the doctors have not been able to go. I am glad to say that it has all had a remarkable effect on the fanatics. My *barrio* was the one where we were so badly stoned some time ago, and we have been able to give “*pildoras por piedras*” (pills in return for stones), because all the prominent ones who stoned us have sought our medical aid. My little knowledge of medicine gained in the London hospitals has now come in very handy, when those who knew anything of medicine have been in great demand. We received every courtesy and help from the authorities at this time.’

Canal Zone and Panama Canal

“Normal traffic through the Canal is being resumed. At the present writing as many as six, seven, and eight ships a day are passing through. In the month of November 185 ships passed the Canal, representing the following nationalities: United States 81, British 38, French 13, Norwegian 12, Chilean 6, Japanese and Peruvian 5 each, Dutch 2, Costa Rican 2, Ecuadorian 1.

Army and Navy Work in the Canal Zone

“Something has been done toward supplying the needs of the soldiers and sailors stationed here. Five hundred Testaments were given to the Porto Rican regiment on the Canal Zone. Besides this a house-

to-house canvass has been made of the cities of Colon and Panama. Some Bibles have been circulated in the city of David, in the interior, by the Methodist Episcopal Mission workers.

Bibles among West Indian Negroes

"A great many Bibles in English have been sold to the West Indian negroes who furnish the labor in this part of the world. They bought us all out of cheap English Bibles before Christmas. At the present writing the work of distribution from the Bible House is at a standstill for lack of stock, all of our Spanish books and all the cheap English books being sold out.

The Bible Society's Launch

"With the resumption of normal traffic through the Canal, and with a removal of the restrictions made necessary by a state of war, work on the ships ought to be resumed. We hope soon to see the Bible Society's launch running on the harbor again, with its uniformed workers calling the attention of the carriers of the world's commerce to the one Book, the influence of whose teachings has made international commerce in its present-day proportions possible."

Mr. Jordan concludes:

"We enter the new year with our hearts full of thankfulness to God for the Bible House in Cristobal and all for which it stands; also for the privilege of endeavoring to help it fulfill the functions which the donors had in mind for it in God's plan for the salvation of Latin America."

La Plata Agency

Agency Secretary: REV. F. G. PENZOTTI

Casilla de Correo, 304, Calle Parana, 481, Buenos Ayres,
Argentina

Established 1864. Field: Spanish South America, excepting Venezuela and Colombia. Circulation in 1918, 45,140 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1864, 1,667,340 volumes.

This extensive field, covering seven republics—namely, Argentina, Bolivia, Chili, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay—with headquarters at Buenos Ayres, was very seriously affected by the war. It was extremely difficult to get the books to the different portions of the field, and shipping was so irregular that it was almost impossible to procure space for cases of books, even when the books were available. In spite of all these difficulties, however, the Rev. F. G. Penzotti, who has so long and so faithfully cared for the interests of the Society in this field, with the assistance of 46 colporteurs and correspondents, put into circulation 45,140 volumes, in 27 languages—11,414 being whole Bibles, 11,271 Testaments, and 22,455 portions.

This was a decrease of 18,273 as compared with 1917, but the wonder is that in the face of the many difficulties it was possible to get over 45,000 copies of the Scriptures in circulation. As Mr. Penzotti aptly observes:

“The true value of the work consists not so much in the number of books put in circulation, or in the money received for them, but, rather, in the beneficial spiritual part, the result of which can never be measured by rule.

Labor and Capital

“Unfortunately, men like to go their own ways, and the result of it is that while I am writing these lines in the metropolis of Latin America, the government is going to decree the *estado de sitio*, and the noise of hundreds of detonations is heard in the streets

of Buenos Ayres, causing many victims. That is the struggle between labor and capital.

“Nevertheless, the Bible does not cease to carry forward its noble and spiritual mission; no other work or institution has done a greater and more important service than the Bible in the struggle for liberty of worship and the conversion of many souls.”

The Colporteurs and their Fruitful Service

Mr. Penzotti's report records many interesting incidents of fruitage from Scriptures sold or donated by the colporteurs in the years gone by. The following extracts will encourage all who distribute God's Word to be faithful in scattering widely the living seed, much of which will fall in good ground and bring forth an hundredfold.

The Bible Displaces Catholic Idols

Our veteran colporteur, Julian Mangas, writes:

“Before I was converted to God my craft was that of a gunsmith, and I was very fond of hunting. But once revealed to me the power of God's Word, I greatly wished to become a hunter of souls; for Solomon says that he who hunts souls is wise. One day I discovered a little hut in which a man eighty years of age lived with his mother, a woman of one hundred and three years. I presented myself to them and spoke of the love of Christ. The woman began to weep, but it was for joy, saying that she never in her life had heard such a message of grace and so much love. Her son said to me, ‘Will you kindly visit us to-morrow? I desire to consult with you about this new message of joy which you have brought us to-day.’ The following day I visited them again and was led by the man into a kind of large habitation where there was erected an altar, with a virgin and other images, all of them covered with ornaments of gold and silver. These poor people, being very ig-

norant, were entirely given to idolatry, and came from far to worship these images. He showed me all the idols, and asked me, 'What do you say of this?' The only reply I had to that was to read them from Isaiah 44, Psalm 115, Jeremiah 10, I. Corinthians 10:14, and I. John 5: 4. After having read and explained to them these passages I marked them in their own Bibles. The man became entirely convinced of the truth, finally converted, and destroyed all the images he found in his house. This brought down upon him a strong persecution by his former friends; yet he and his mother continued to drink out of the fountain of life, and later on many others with them."

Gospel Meetings, not "Masses," Bring Peace

A happy mother says:

"I had a sick child three months old. Being tired of the many doctors, masses, virgins, saints, offering candles, and promises (I then was a very devout Catholic), I was very near to breaking down under the great affliction and sadness which the sickness of my child brought upon me. A neighbor of mine spoke to me about Christ and the gospel, telling me that the only and exclusive remedy for my child and myself was to be obtained through his divine Word.

"This message was to my soul like fresh water to thirsty ground. I attended the meetings and to-day am enjoying peace and happiness. I am blessing that happy day that brought to my soul the message of my beloved Saviour."

"It Shall Not Return unto Me Void"

Rafael Pineyro, one of the colporteurs, while attending a gospel meeting in which he used to take part, was told by a woman that her husband had bought of him a Bible eleven years ago, and that the result of it was that her husband, herself, and their daughter found through it salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

She thanked the Lord with tears in her eyes for the inexpressible treasure her whole family had found.

Another woman rose, and said that some years ago, being ill in a hospital, she was visited by a colporteur who gave her a portion of the Holy Scriptures, which she had read with great interest, this resulting in her salvation and joy in Christ.

The same colporteur received a letter from Spain, from one Orsindo Fernandez, in which he related to him the conversion of his married daughter through reading a Bible which was given to her when she was in Buenos Ayres. This letter at the same time brought him the news of her death, leaving behind her a glorious testimony of faith in her Saviour.

This colporteur also says: "A train conductor entered the meeting hall, testifying that four years ago a colporteur who was traveling in the same train gave him a Bible which the Lord had used as a means to open his heart, and Christ took it to his own."

A Testament, the Real "Book of Mass"

He continues: "One day a woman came in and asked for a 'book of mass.' A New Testament was shown to her, at the sight of which she exclaimed, 'That is not the book of mass!' 'What do you understand by the word mass? or, what is the mass?' I asked her. 'It is the sacrifice of Christ,' she said. Then I read and explained to her the gospel, the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The woman, greatly moved, but happy at the same time for having discovered that treasure, bought a New Testament and went away. The Lord will surely have done his work in this woman's heart."

Chili

The Rev. Victoriano de Castro G., the sub-Agent in Chili, states that the year 1918 was "one of hard struggles and trials," and that the lack of funds and

books "put us in a state of continual anxiety during the whole year." There were only 2 colporteurs employed, but their work was supplemented by 24 correspondents. These 26 workers traveled 12,705 miles, visited 406 towns, and put in circulation 9,973 copies of the Scriptures.

A Tireless Worker

Concerning the work of Mr. A. Gonzales, the sub-Agent writes:

"Our colporteur A. Gonzales visited the mineral establishments of El Teniente, Coya, El Volcan and Curanilahue on different occasions, and we are very grateful to the chiefs of these establishments for the facilities they are offering us, making thereby our work more easy for us. This good brother, who never gets tired of working, very often goes great distances on foot, visiting towns and villages and carrying along with him a goodly stock of books, searching especially those places where no colporteur has ever been, and placing in the hands of these people the Word of God. Ultimately I had to restrain him by force against his extreme activity, due to which his health was seriously affected by too excessive labor. The doctor who visited him ordered him to greater moderation in his zealous service."

Work in Other Republics

In Paraguay, with its half-million inhabitants, "a goodly number of Scriptures" were placed in circulation, chiefly in the Spanish, Portuguese and Guarany languages. In Bolivia and Ecuador no special work was done on account of war conditions. In Uruguay, "a very progressive country, its laws more liberal than those in any other country of South America, we have placed in circulation the greatest number of Scriptures," Mr. Penzotti says.

“Antonio Fidalgo, one of our colporteurs there, our most active and consecrated worker, has put in circulation during the year 5,000 books, not without sacrifice and great effort; upon his bicycle he traverses towns and villages, often on foot, going great distances to the camps in search after souls for Christ, visiting every ranch he meets, and looking into every corner.”

In Peru—“Our sub-Agent, Mr. A. M. Munoz, has been doing the best possible to attend to the most urgent necessities of this field. It was materially impossible for him to do a more aggressive work during this year, considering that he only received a single consignment of Scriptures, as a consequence of the terrible world war.”

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr. Penzotti says:

“In closing this small report I have the impression upon me as though I were going out of a miasmatical and powder-smelling valley, hearing behind me the moans of its many victims; but at the same time I see before me the dawning of a beautiful day, and hear the sweet song of ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!’ ”

Brazil

Agency Secretary: REV. H. C. TUCKER, D.D.
Caixa do Correio, 454, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

First Agent appointed 1854; present Agency established 1876. Circulation for 1918, 19,602 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1876, 1,188,310 volumes.

In this Agency the war interfered so greatly with transportation facilities that supplies of Scriptures were months in reaching the field from New York. In consequence, the circulation for 1918 was two-thirds less than in the previous year; only 4,267 Bibles, 4,867 Testaments, and 10,468 portions, a

total of 19,604 volumes being distributed, as against 58,666 in 1917.

Dr. Tucker writes: "The Agency was able to obtain from New York during the year, in time to get into circulation, only 18,152 copies of the Scriptures. The stock on hand in our depository at the beginning of the year consisted, as at the close, of a few thousand copies in various foreign languages, of which we need to keep supplies for occasional demands. Receipts from New York and purchases at Rio amounted to 19,400 copies, while the distribution for the year, in 29 languages, amounted to 19,602 copies, as follows:

Total sales by colporteurs.....	1,318	2,027	3,029	6,374
Sales at depository.....	821	444	587	1,852
" by correspondents.....	1,899	2,004	4,496	8,399
Total.....	4,038	4,475	8,112	16,625
Donations and losses.....	229	392	2,356	2,977
Grand total.....	4,267	4,867	10,468	19,602

"This is by far the smallest circulation that the Agency has shown for years. The reason for the decrease has already been made clear; the Bible House at New York made every effort to get supplies up to the full limit of our reduced appropriation, but for lack of shipping space it was impossible to do so."

The War and the Bible in Brazil

Mr. Tucker makes the following interesting observation regarding the influence exerted by the war in focusing the attention of the people of Brazil upon the Bible: "Who can measure the far-reaching and endless influence of the world struggle in awakening the peoples of the earth to the importance of spiritual things, and in riveting their attention upon Christ and his wonderful words of life?"

Dr. Tucker writes further:

"The appeal to the Word of God and its real value to men in all the affairs of life have been strongly em-

phasized during the present world struggle. The movement is becoming widespread. There are indications of an increasing interest in knowing and making known the Bible in Brazil. The evangelical papers have published reports and notices of the efforts of the Bible Societies and others to supply Scriptures to the men of the armies and navies of the world, to the prisoners and men in the camps. The opinions of high military and naval authorities as to the worth of the khaki Testament to the men in the service, and the testimonials of the men themselves as to the blessings and strength received from reading and obeying the Word of God, have been translated into Portuguese and published. The information imparted in this way has made a profound impression and awakened interest. These impressions made upon Brazilian minds now need to be followed up by a wider circulation of the Bible and plans to give to every man who can read easy facilities for acquiring a copy.

A Brazilian Scholar's "Considerations on the Bible"

"For some time it has been known that Dr. Jose Carlos Rodrigues, a distinguished Brazilian scholar and editor, was preparing a work on the Bible. He published during the year a volume entitled, '*Considerações sobre a Biblia*' (Considerations on the Bible), which might be called an Introduction to the Study of the Bible, with special reference to preparing the way for a study of the life of Christ. The book is being read by a number of persons and is attracting very favorable comment from various sources. It is a valuable contribution to Biblical literature and will be most useful to Bible students; it will also create interest in the reading and study of the Bible among the educated and liberal-minded classes in society.

"That a leading editor and scholar of forty years' experience and success in a country where the Bible

is little known, and the reading of it by the masses discouraged, and even forbidden by ecclesiastical authorities, should give up editorial work and business to devote his entire time to the preparation of such a work, and others that are to follow, is a matter of great significance.

“Further facts and incidents might be related to show the developing interest in the Bible among Brazilians.

The Bible in the Army and Navy of Brazil

“The desire to do for the men in the Brazilian navy and army what has been so strikingly and efficiently accomplished for the forces of other nations, has manifested itself in other directions. One ex-colporteur of the Bible Society sent a generous offering from his small earnings for this purpose; pastors have spoken from their pulpits of the needs, and offerings for the fund have been made. Led by a consecrated young Brazilian Christian, a group of men obtained permission and gave a copy of the New Testament to each man on board the vessels of the Brazilian fleet just before leaving for European waters to join the Allies. The spirit with which these copies were received gave encouragement to extend the work among the men on other vessels, in the forts and elsewhere. A Christian woman in the States, learning of this effort and of the need of larger supplies of Scriptures, sent a special offering of \$30 for the work.

“The great lesson of the world tragedy of the last four years is one that has often been repeated in human history, and nowhere recorded with greater clearness and force in the stories of the nations found in the Bible: ‘Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.’ ”

Urgent Need of a Bible House in Rio de Janeiro

For the third or fourth year Dr. Tucker appeals for a suitable Bible House in the center of that large and

important city, Rio de Janeiro. God grant that this earnest appeal to meet an urgent need may arrest the attention of one of the Master's stewards of wealth and influence him, or her, or a family, to contribute the \$50,000 to purchase the building God has ready for use in honoring him and in scattering the Word of Life among the people of the republic of Brazil.

We must again repeat and emphasize the desirability of the Bible Society securing a small suitable building of its own in the center of the city of Rio de Janeiro, the political, commercial, social, and religious capital of Brazil. Now that the world seems about to enter a period of reconstruction, and Brazil is gaining an importance never before enjoyed as a factor in world affairs, the time seems most propitious for this advanced step. Just at present there is a splendid opportunity for acquiring a building well located and adapted to the needs of the Agency; if secured it would not only amply accommodate the work of the Agency but would furnish a rental income sufficient for taxes and upkeep, and would give a considerable sum annually for the expenses of Scripture distribution. The property can be purchased for \$50,000 or less.

We need not perhaps repeat here the arguments in support of this claim; these have been set forth specially in reports for the past two or three years; let the reader interested refer to the report for 1917.

Levant

Acting Agency Secretary: MR. W. W. PEET
Bible House, Constantinople, Turkey

REV. FRANKLIN E. HOSKINS, D.D.
(In charge of the Arabic-speaking portion of the field)
Beirut, Syria.

Established 1836. Field: The Turkish Empire in Europe and Asia, Bulgaria, Greek, Servian, and Bulgarian Macedonia, Albania, Egypt, and the Soudan. Circulation in 1918, 65,054 volumes. Aggregate issues during 60 years ending December 31, 1918, 3,955,790 volumes.

Throughout the entire year 1918, the Levant Agency was without a supervising officer on the field, as Mr. W. W. Peet, the Acting Agent, has been in the United States on furlough. There were, however, able representatives of the Society's work in Constantinople, Bulgaria, Syria, and Egypt.

In July, the Rev. Dr. Franklin E. Hoskins, one of the Presbyterian missionaries at Beirut, was sent out jointly by his Board and the American Bible Society, by way of the Far East, to go as far as Egypt, and to reach Beirut at the earliest possible moment. He is to supervise that part of the Society's work in the Levant which is embraced in the Arabic-speaking regions.

The Year's Circulation

Owing to the war conditions that prevailed last year, and the consequent impossibility of securing reports from all engaged in Scripture distribution, an accurate statement of the year's circulation cannot be given. So far as figures are presented, Constantinople reports a distribution of 34,315 volumes, and Egypt of 30,739, making a total of 65,054, which is approximately the record of the year. In 1917 the reported circulation was 70,037.

Mr. Peet, who resided in Constantinople during the first three years of the war, submits a very full and most interesting report, in which he gives an intimate view of the appalling conditions and trials due to the war, and a succinct description of the po-

litical policies and intrigues before and during it. The limits of this STORY make it impossible to review these matters, but the reader who is particularly interested in this field is urged to secure and peruse the full report as it appears in the *One Hundred and Third Annual Report* of the Society, sent on application, for 25 cents.

Bearing of the War on Bible Work

The atrocious misrule, the dire cruelties, the unimaginable sufferings, and the indescribable atrocities of the Turkish Empire during the past four years, have resulted in making all classes of the people approachable as never before. The utter collapse of Germany and Turkey, and the signal victory of the Allies, coupled with the fortitude of the persecuted Christian Greeks and Armenians, have robbed the Young Turk party of all prestige and created a marked interest in the Book that comforted and strengthened the courageous Christians in their hour of trial. Out of the maelstrom of the war and its barbarities there is sure to come a calmness of judgment and a spirit of inquiry concerning Christ and his Word that will tend to the more rapid advancement of his kingdom, Mr. Peet observes.

Unparalleled Record of Crimes Hinders the Work

The following extracts from Mr. Peet's report give one conception of the trying conditions and faithful efforts in Scripture distribution in the Levant.

"After Turkey was fairly launched into the general war, the pretext of military requirements, though scarcely needed, was ready at hand, and met with the approval of the German allies of the Turkish Empire. Then began that series of atrocities unparalleled in the whole record of the crimes committed by Turkish governments in the past. The Armenians

were the principal victims of this savage policy of extermination. Hundreds of thousands of innocent women and children were marched on foot over interminable distances in the heat of summer or in the frosts of winter, while most of the men were mercilessly slaughtered, sometimes before the eyes of their own families. The horrors of these deportations and massacres defy all description. More than two million Armenians and Greeks are reckoned as deported from their homes, and only one-third of them is now believed to survive. Two-thirds perished from sickness, starvation, exposure, and massacre. Similar methods were adopted against Arabs in Syria, Jews in Palestine, and Chaldeans in Mesopotamia, irrespective of religion.

“This blind cruelty, however, was not the only characteristic of the Young Turk misrule. The whole population of the empire was plunged into darkest misery. Indiscriminate military conscription drained away the greater part of the country’s productive force. The ‘Workmen’s Regiments’ will long survive in the memory of the Christians of this country as a very hell of torture, far more murderous than the worst fire of an attacking enemy. The men were compelled to work from morning to evening, ill fed, scantily clad, deprived of night lodgings, plunged in filth, exposed to the rigors of heat and cold. Thousands and thousands of stalwart young men perished. It was a capital method for the extermination of all that the Christian races possessed in youth and vigor.

Position of the Levant Agency

“In the midst of this turmoil, what prospects could there be for a successful Bible work? It was clear that while the war was going on Bible work must be careful not to expose itself to too much light! Nevertheless, during several months after the beginning of hostilities the work of distribution was continued

in the method that Dr. Bowen had adopted with such a successful issue. Soon, however, its inevitable decline came on. Things were day by day getting tighter and tighter, a feeling of uneasiness was spreading over the country, roads were closed to private travelers and to merchandise, communications by post became precarious, and, lastly, the deportations and massacres of the Armenians in the spring of 1915 brought the work to a complete standstill.

Staff of Colporteurs Reduced from 35 to 5

"It was a painful moment to Dr. Bowen, for he saw the labor of a lifetime breaking to pieces in a few short months. His faith in the vitality of the work was not shaken for a moment, but he felt the necessity of relaxing the effort toward distribution in the districts where the storm was raging. Of the thirty colporteurs who covered the whole extent of Asia Minor, only five were retained in the Bible Society's service. Broosa, Smyrna, Aleppo, Adana, and Trebizond were thus the only cities of Asia Minor where the Agency had men engaged in Bible work.

Scriptures for Soldiers and Prisoners

"During the past year we sent several times by post, at the request of Mr. F. S. Onderdonk, secretary of the Students' Movement in Vienna, a number of single Gospels and other portions of the Bible in the Turkish language. These were wanted for free distribution among wounded and sick Turkish soldiers in various hospitals in Austria. We received at times letters of acknowledgment from the chief nurses of these hospitals, expressing their appreciation and thanking us for the books. The sick soldiers, they wrote, were very glad to have them and openly manifested their joy. But we were soon obliged to stop sending these books. One day an officer of the Secret

Service called at our office with one of those single Gospels in his hand, and asked, in a rather authoritative manner, what we meant by sending such books to Turkish soldiers in Austria.

Loving Service by a Pastor of a German Church

"In January, 1917, we delivered 200 Armenian New Testaments, and in February of the following year 500 more, to the Rev. Count Luttichau, pastor of the German Church in Pera and chaplain of the German Embassy. These were wanted for free distribution among Russian prisoners of Armenian origin interned in Germany. The following is a translation of the German report by Pastor Luttichau:

" 'Report on the benefit bestowed by the Armenian New Testaments on Russian prisoners of Armenian speech and Armenian creed, in Germany.

" 'Rendered by Head-Master Sommer, at Uchtenhagen, Mark. March, 1918.

" 'We heartily thank the American Bible Society for enabling us to hand to Armenian prisoners the Word of God, toward which so great a craving was existing among them. A portion of the New Testaments was distributed at the time of my personal visits. To prisoners at places where I could not go, the books were sent by post, or by care of the pastors who were appointed over the prisoners by the ecclesiastical authorities.

" 'During our prayer and conversation about God's love their countenances brightened up every now and then. "Now we know," they said, "that there is somebody here who is thinking of us. What you have brought us with God's Word is much more important and valuable than any material assistance." I went twice to another small band of prisoners. After my first visit I sent them some Armenian New Testaments.'

Printing

“No new printing was done at Constantinople after Dr. Bowen left for Switzerland, in February, 1916. In the early part of the same year a Bible and a New Testament in the Arabic language were printed at Beirut. These two editions were the last that were printed by the Agency.

Binding and Purchase of Scriptures

“Owing to the extremely high prices, we were obliged to confine our binding and purchases to books which were in actual demand. During the three years 1916-1918, the great majority of the Scriptures that were bound or purchased by the Agency were in the Bulgarian language and were forwarded to Bulgaria.”

Imprisoned and Exiled for Distributing the Scriptures

In his report, Mr. Peet gives the following worthy tribute concerning the colporteurs during the years of war:

“Our colporteurs of Constantinople have both had their share in difficulties and unjustifiable interference with their work.

“It was gratifying to see how faithfully these men went on with their labor in the midst of so many difficulties. They had a report of sales to send us at the end of each month, and though their distribution fell far short of what they had done in days of prosperity, the sales which they succeeded in making are a testimony to their faithfulness and energy. We are not yet informed whether or not the work of our provincial colporteurs was hindered by government officials, for it would be unwise to write about such incidents while the Young Turks' terrorizing methods were still in force.

“One of them, however, reports as follows:

“ ‘During my work in the city of Constantinople, I had the pleasure to meet many people favorably inclined toward the Bible. I sold a good many copies of pocket New Testaments to Greek and Armenian soldiers of the Turkish army. Last summer I met with a disagreeable adventure during a visit I made to Kemer Bourgaz, a village lying a few miles to the north of Constantinople. At the outskirts of the village I sold a few portions to Moslem soldiers. Presently I was arrested and cross-examined on the charge of selling to Mohammedans books which were good to Christians only, with the purpose of winning them over to Protestantism. I was kept in a filthy prison there during two days and was then sent to Constantinople under escort, in company with a man who was accused of thieving. After being imprisoned in Constantinople for one or two days I was allowed to go, but only after I had proved that my business was permitted under the existing laws.’

“Our second colporteur in Constantinople reports:

“ ‘It was in April, 1915, that I happened to be on a Bosphorus steamer, when a Turkish officer asked what the books I was selling were. I showed him a Turkish Bible, and on examining it he was irritated at seeing on the title-page a notice that the book was printed at the expense of the American and British Bible Societies. For it was during those days that the fight in the Dardanelles was at its height. On disembarking from the steamer the officer had me arrested by a policeman. I was thrown into prison and some days later was exiled to the interior of Asia Minor, with a number of Armenian gentlemen who had also been arrested on various pretexts. It was only through the energetic intervention of Dr. Bowen and of Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador, that I was allowed to return to Constantinople, after an exile of more than three months.’

Sales Increase in War Time

“The distribution from the Society’s central depository at the Bible House of Constantinople has been during the war years considerably higher than it was in normal times. It would have been still higher had our stock been better supplied. The years 1917 and 1918 were especially marked for large sales from our depository, despite the fact that our selling prices were increased. It was particularly interesting to see soldiers who insisted upon paying for the books they wanted, although we told them that they might have them free.

The Work in Bulgaria

“It is very unfortunate that we have no report to present from the Rev. M. N. Popoff, the Society’s able sub-Agent in Sofia. A description from his own pen of the work in Bulgaria would doubtless be highly interesting. Our correspondence with Mr. Popoff, though often interrupted during the previous two years, was tolerably regular in 1918 until the end of September, when the armistice was concluded and all communication between this country and Bulgaria was suspended. His letters to us were necessarily concise; but the reports he sent in from month to month sufficed to give an idea of the splendid work that was carried on in Bulgaria.

“During the time from January to September two colporteurs were working in Bulgaria, while depository distribution was carried on in three centers: Sofia, Philippopolis, and Yambol. The unsettled condition of the territories acquired by Bulgaria after the Balkan war, and the quick succession of the general war, did not allow the extension of Bible work to those new territories. There can be little doubt that with the final establishment of peace, Bible work in Bulgaria is destined to be a success.”

Egypt and Syria

The Rev. Mikhail Bakhit, of Alexandria, was indefatigable in labors in Egypt.

We ceased to hear from our Syrian sub-Agency after February, 1917. Mr. C. A. Dana, the Society's sub-Agent in Beirut, on coming to Constantinople about a year ago informed us that no binding or printing was done there for the present. Only the Society's depository was open for sales.

The following particulars of the work in Egypt are full of encouragement and illustrate how faithfully the colporteurs have labored despite their trials:

Distribution

"In spite of the many hardships and hindrances mentioned above, our distribution for the year 1918, including Bibles, Testaments, and portions, has been 30,739 volumes, or an increase, as compared with last year, of 3,592 volumes. This is an increase far exceeding our expectation, and due (humanly speaking) to unusual opportunities that came to us during the year. We pray that God may give us more of these opportunities, so that there may be an ever-increasing distribution of his truth among the people.

"Our circulation for the year 1918 was 30,739.

"We have 18 colporteurs, 17 of whom worked the entire year, while the other worked 10 months and then left the Bible work because his salary was not enough to supply his family's needs.

"The colporteurs spent in service 6,505 days, traveled 20,486 miles, and visited 780 towns and villages."

Striking Testimony of a Moslem Regarding the Bible

"Our colporteur in Neg Hamada says:

" 'While I was working in the station of Deshna, Ali Bey Budran, the engineer of the Irrigation De-

partment, and Ali Bey Mahfouz, the judge of the court, met me. I did not know them, but they saw my books, and the first Bey, seeing a gilt-edged Arabic Bible, said: "I wish to take this book because it has a good binding, and not for its words." I answered him, saying, "If you wish to take the book only for its cover, and not for its good words, I will not give it to you." I understood from his words that he wished to mock the Bible. While we were talking the train came, and he left me and took it. After the train had started the second Bey came to me and bought the Bible, saying, "Do not be angry because of the Bey's words; we know that the Bible is the book of God, and we respect it." "

Conclusion

"The Bible Society's mission in these lands is assuming a far greater importance than it has had in the past. By disseminating God's Word among the nations of the East it will assist them in achieving their religious reforms. The Bible will be one of the greatest factors in the regeneration of the nations of the East."

Siam

Agency Secretary: REV. ROBERT IRWIN
426 Pramuen Road, Bangkok, Siam

Established 1890. Circulation in 1918, 147,352 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1890, 1,719,890 volumes.

The work of Scripture distribution in this Agency during 1918 was most encouraging. It is the only Foreign Agency reporting a growth in the circulation, which amounted to 147,352 volumes as against 102,529 in 1917—an increase of 44,823. This creditable increase was almost entirely in portions, as the following table shows. The circulation of Bibles and Testaments was very small.

Comparison of Circulation for 1917 and 1918

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
For 1918.....	49	586	146,717	147,352
For 1917.....	51	539	101,939	102,529
Increase over 1917.....	—2	+47	+44,778	+44,823

Another item of interest is that the donations, or gratuitous distribution by colporteurs, were nearly double the sales. In China very little free distribution is reported.

The colporteurs are pioneer missionaries scattering the seed of the Word widely in the form of portions of the Scriptures which consist of at least a Gospel or some other complete book of the Bible. The subjoined paragraph gives particulars of the circulation.

Of the portions distributed 34,452 were Gospels; 27,724 the book of James; 22,441 Jonah; 20,589 Ruth; 14,079 Epistles of John; 5,126 Genesis, etc. Most of the books were in the Siamese and Laos languages, a considerable number in Chinese, and fewer in five other tongues. Forty-five colporteurs and sixteen helpers have assisted in this work. The attempt was made this year in the Chiangmai field to cover completely every part of it with the Scriptures. This intensive method is working satisfactorily.

The following quotations from Mr. Irwin's long and enlightening report for 1918 illustrate the various forms of activity and give a few of the many instances of work done during 1918. We read:

What Has Been Done—Distribution

"All other work is subservient to that of distribution. The colporteur is our important man. A force averaging twenty-five a month has traveled along the highways and bypaths, through jungles and over mountains. in rain and shine, visiting populous cities and lonely huts, scattering the leaves that are for the healing of the nations. Real heroes some of them are, though none of them knows it.

"It is a pleasure to record the help Dr. Barnes, of the Rockefeller Research Foundation, has given us both in the distribution of Scriptures and evangelistic work.

The "Silent Missionary" Wins Adherents

"Mr. Callender, of Prae, writes: 'Elder Noi Ka made a trip to the Yao people, and had a very interesting time. The Yaos there got hold of a book of Genesis which came from the Yaos in the hills of Nan, where I went before; they had left off their spirit worship, taken Jehovah for their God, and built a house for him to dwell in and to him they offer incense.'

"The Rev. H. S. Vincent tells of a man who came from an out-village, inquiring for the church. He had had a book of Scripture and, following its teachings, wanted to know more perfectly the way of life. He was received and since that time has led almost his entire village to a live interest in Christian truths. He has not been employed by the Mission, but gives his time freely.

Agency Secretary's Work

"The Secretary's work is of a variable nature. The special feature this year was a trip into China, fifteen days north of Chiengrai, to visit the new station of the North Siam Mission and get distribution started there. It is the second time I have been to that part of the field, and it is full of interest. Dr. and Mrs. Mason, who had been there only three months, were busy in all that pertains to pioneer life. They have good hope of reaching a large population of Tai in and around Chiengrung.

"Over three-quarters of the year was spent on a 4,517-mile road, and in the stations of four missions outside of Bangkok. Only two stations were not visited, the two on the peninsula."

The Importance of Training Colporteurs and Others

A subject to which Mr. Irwin has devoted much time, thought and effort in past years, is the best way and method of training colporteurs for their work. Courses of study were evolved after much correspondence and careful deliberation. During 1918 classes were conducted in 8 centers with an attendance of from 6 to 200, averaging 8 days. Mr. Irwin well says:

"A world-wide correspondence to find some simple lessons for this purpose failed to bring them, and there was nothing for it, if we were to do this work, but to make them. After several trials, and a ton of paper, we have settled down to the preparation of a series based on 'Co-operation with God.' This general course is outlined and the first set of eight lessons on 'Prayer' completed. They are now being printed in English and Laos, and will soon be put into Siamese and Chinese.

"Passing through Lampoon, a pick-up class was collected by Mr. Freeman, and after crowding seven lessons into three days an examination was held in the shape of actual distribution to one another. Born actors, they entered into the exercise with all their hearts. 'Still,' as Noi Kam admitted, 'it was hard work.' This classwork is strenuous, but exhilarating.

A Night Volunteer Class

"Twenty-five employees of the Lakawn tannery asked for a class and attended in the night.

"A conference is usually held in connection with the class. There were fewer of these this year than usual, owing to the prevalence of the pandemic of influenza. During the year we conducted classes in eight centers, with an attendance of from six persons to two hundred, averaging eight days. There are some visible results. For instance, shortly after leaving Prae, Mr. Callender wrote that Noi Ka,



AT WORK FOR A KAMU VERSION

following instructions, was making a house-to-house canvass of his district."

Translation and Revision of the Scriptures

An important phase of the work in the Siam Agency is to assist in and facilitate the revision of tentative translations of the Scriptures and to encourage and promote the rendering of the Bible, in part at first, into new languages as the work of evangelization extends among hitherto unreached peoples. There are many tribes in this field that have no written language, as the next paragraph shows, and to provide the gospel for such means time, patience, and scholarship, coupled with much prayer and expense. What was accomplished in 1918 is thus stated by Mr. Irwin;

“Mr. Hanna and his helpers are at work on the Gospel of Mark in two languages. As soon as a sample of his Lahu Mark reaches Chiengrai we will test it on the Musso Christians there. Mrs. Crooks has made the beginning of the New Testament in Kamu and the Epistle of Peter is being used with good effect among the Kamu in North Siam.

“In the matter of the translation of Scriptures the Rev. A. C. Hanna and Po Tun, a scholarly Karen helper, are at work on the translation of Mark for the Kaw and the Lahu, illiterate mountain tribes. There are school text-books and a hymnal in Lahu, but no Scriptures yet in either language.

“We have to thank the Rev. G. Porteous, of the China Inland Mission at Sapushan, for sample copies in the Pollard script of Lisu, Laka, Kopu, and Hwa Miao (or, as we say here, Maa or Meo) and key to its use. We may be able to adapt it to our mountain people, but have not had time to do anything with it yet.

“The Scripture Revision Committee of the South Siam Mission has completed the revision of Psalms in Siamese.

“The North Siam Scripture Committee spent two weeks on the revision of Proverbs in the Laos dialect, and completed half the book. It was translated several years ago by Dr. Howard Campbell, but not yet printed.

“A second edition of the Kamu Peter has had to be put out without revision.”

Tai—“The Free”—A Scattered Mighty People

Mr. Irwin has very much on his heart the Tai people, “scattered among four nations,” with “relics of a departed glory still clinging to them.” They have no written language and very little work is being done among them, yet they are approachable and might be won for the kingdom of Christ in large

numbers if God's people would rise to the opportunity and respond to the call of need.

Similarly, there are many mountain tribes akin to the Tai without written languages, for whom Scripture and evangelistic work ought to be rapidly developed. May the following earnest words of Mr. Irwin strike a responsive chord in the hearts of some of God's stewards and influence them to supply the means for providing these untouched millions with the Word of Life! He says:

What Remains to Be Done—the Field

“The field: it is bigger than we thought, even two years ago. It used to be Siam, then we found the Tai in the Shan states and Sip Sawng Punna; then in southern China and across the Me Kawng, in French territory. Now Dr. Dodd and the China Council find them in at least four provinces of south China, estimating that there are five millions of them there. But while I was in Kengtung last spring Mr. Hanna quoted a missionary in China as putting them at ‘forty millions Tai in China.’

“In the British Shan states the North Siam Mission has a small work a few miles wide along the Me Kawng River, among the Tai. The American Baptist Mission has a large work among the mountain people of three tribes, with a center at Kengtung, the capital. They do not pretend to work for the Tai, so that less than a sixth of the Tai people in Kengtung State have the chance to hear the gospel. By arrangement of the two Mission Boards in America the Presbyterian missionaries are excluded from five-sixths of the Tai people in that country, and no other provision is made for them. In China there is just the beginning of evangelistic work among the unknown millions of Tai, and in French Cochin China there are two families in the southern part of the country, while the French government forbids mis-

sion work in the northern states. Is it not evident that 'there remains yet very much land to be possessed?' Here is a mighty people, scattered among four nations, relics of a departed glory still clinging to them and showing in their name, Tai, the Free. Surely, it is worth while to give them the gospel and to expect that in course of time they will become an evangelizing force to others. The call of the Tai is loud and insistent from the east and farther east, from the north and ever farther north, and we have not the men to send, men filled with the Spirit, men in love with their work, men who can be trusted. Only training will give us such men.

Mountain Tribes, Legion in Number

"Scattered all through the Tai, mostly in the mountains, and little known, are the so-called mountain tribes, legion in number and polyglot in speech.

"Parts of some ten tribes are touched, while a multitude of them have never heard the Story. So far as they are known they are susceptible to the gospel. The great new life that has awakened all nations to new vigor is beginning to reach even these remote mountaineers; universal ideas are forming within their brains; and they are wondering. Now is the psychological moment for the missionary. The chances are greatly in favor of sweeping them into the Kingdom now. A few years hence may be too late.

"To proceed in a systematic way, one of the first things would be to find out and tabulate the languages and dialects. Many of them may be identical, or so akin that the same Scriptures could be used for different tribes. In the meantime, while we are waiting for that genius in language who may never appear, let each one in any way connected with these tribes hoard every scrap of information and expression and try to link it with other information, pass it on to those interested in the problem, and do what he can to reduce the language to writing.

China

Agency Secretary: REV. JOHN R. HYKES, D.D.
73 Szechuen Road, Shanghai, China

Established 1876. Circulation in 1918, 1,034,309 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1876, 25,714,660 volumes.

Pitiful indeed are the reports of Dr. Hykes, the Agency Secretary for China, and his five sub-Agency Secretaries. The scarcity of Scriptures and the appealing requests for even the Gospels—if not the Bible or New Testament—have combined to make the year 1918 one of the most trying and depressing since the organization of the extensive work of the American Bible Society in China. There has been a veritable famine of the Word, due to a multiplication of causes, thus briefly stated by Dr. Hykes:

Disastrous Retrenchments

“The year has been full of worries. Aside from the troubles growing out of the revolution, particularly in Hunan and Szechuan, we were often at our wits’ end to know how best to adjust the work to inadequate funds. While our appropriation was the same as for 1917, it realized twenty-one per cent less in local currency—thus reducing the money available for our work by that amount. Besides, the cost of printing was steadily rising. We had reduced our staff of foreign superintendents from ten to six, and dismissed all salaried colporteurs; but during the year we had to devise some way of further curtailing our expenses to meet the Mex. \$13,000 less realized by our drafts. Further retrenchment could only be effected by cutting down the manufactures. In 1917 they had been reduced nearly 400,000 over 1916. This year the reduction over last was more than 600,000; and it is significant, as showing the straits we were in, that we were only able to manufacture 500 Bibles and 1,000 New Testaments, as against 3,000

Bibles and 41,700 Testaments in 1917. In order to supply the greatest number of separate Gospels we only printed the cheapest editions, in small type. It follows that our circulation was correspondingly smaller."

How desperate were the straits and drastic the retrenchments, for want of the necessary funds! Imagine cutting down the superintendents from ten to six, and dismissing all salaried colporteurs! Think of the hundreds of thousands of eager China-men hungry for God's Word and not able to secure even a Gospel portion! Would that all God's people could feel China's needs as Dr. Hykes and his loyal co-workers feel them! There would then be no lack of money, but gifts would flood the treasury of the Society at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York City. Peruse with prayer, dear reader, this brief story of the Bible famine in China, pass it on to others, and secure generous contributions for the work, so as to help supply the hungering multitudes in China with the Bread of Life.

The Circulation

So far as figures show results, there was a total circulation of 1,034,309 volumes in 17 languages, 7,379 being Bibles, 31,747 Testaments, and 995,183 portions—a decrease of 455,271, as compared with 1917, and less by 1,240,401 volumes in the Centennial year, when the distribution reached the magnificent total of 2,274,710. Had there been books available and workers to distribute them, this high-water mark would probably have been surpassed during 1918. The number of workers was only 394 as against 709 in 1917. In place of the salaried colporteurs, God raised up a large force of voluntary colporteurs, by means of whom most of the distribution in 1918 was accomplished. Dr. Hykes writes:

Distribution by Correspondents

“Our circulation would have had a very sorry showing had it not been for the faithful co-operation of our correspondents, both foreign and Chinese. They distributed 920,120 copies out of a total of 1,033,330 sold. Practically all the distribution under this head is to be credited to voluntary workers, who receive no salary for their services. The subsidized workers are very few, and they are employed under the most exceptional circumstances. Voluntary col-porteurs only receive the proceeds from the sale of Scripture portions (most of which sell at one-half cent per copy), as a contribution toward traveling and distribution expenses. It will thus be seen that the only outlay the Society bears is the cost of printing the books. The circulation could have been increased by the number of additional books had we the money to manufacture them.

“The distribution under this head includes 155,600 copies, circulated by the Rev. J. H. Blackstone for the ‘Milton Stewart Evangelistic Fund.’ ”

Translation and Revision

Much thought and attention has to be given by Dr. Hykes and his advisers to the careful revision of existing versions of the Scripture and to their translation into new dialects. Few realize the amount of time and thought, and study this form of missionary effort entails. Think of the late Dr. Wherry, whom Dr. Hykes describes as “a man of marked literary taste and ability, and one of the best scholars of Wenli in China,” spending seventeen years on revision of the New Testament and eleven on translation of the Old—a total of twenty-eight years!

The “Union” Bible—Wenli Version

Dr. Hykes says:

“During the year Dr. Wherry completed the check-

ing of the unification of the proper names in the Old Testament with the Mandarin Version, and read the proofs of the Old Testament as it was passing through the press. He had seen the typesetting completed and the stereos made, when, on the 29th of December, he passed to his reward. Dr. Wherry was one of the original company of revisers which completed the High Wenli Version of the New Testament, the plans for the production of which were inaugurated by the Missionary Conference of 1890. The Committee's Version was completed, printed tentatively by the three Bible Societies, and presented to the Missionary Conference of 1907. This body decided that instead of two Wenli Versions of the Old Testament, as provided for in 1890, there should be only one; and Dr. Wherry was elected as one of the translators. He spent seventeen years on the revision of the New Testament and eleven more on the translation of the Old—a total of twenty-eight years. These two will be bound together as the Standard Version of the Bible in current Wenli.

Mandarin Version

“The translation of the Old Testament was completed before the close of last year, and an edition in No. 5 type was put to press. Mr. Baller very kindly undertook the reading of the proofs and came to Shanghai for that purpose.

“When the work of revising the Old Testament was approaching completion Dr. Goodrich, Mr. Baller, and Dr. Lewis were asked to edit the text of the New Testament.

Distribution by Colporteurs

“The sales under this caption have been practically all made by the superintendents in charge of the sub-Agencies into which the field has been divided. The only native colporteurs they have had under their



THE MANDARIN REVISION COMMITTEE

care are two supported by friends independent of the Society. The title of these erstwhile 'superintendents,' or 'sub-Agents,' has been changed to 'sub-Agency Secretaries,' to bring it in harmony with the new name ('Agency Secretaries') selected by the Board for its foreign representatives, hitherto designated as 'Agents.' "

The location of the five sub-Agency Secretaries and the designation of these respective fields are as follows:

- The Rev. W. S. Strong, North China sub-Agency, at Peking.
- The Rev. J. Johnson, South China sub-Agency, at Canton.
- Mr. Godfrey Hirst, Central China sub-Agency, at Hankow.
- The Rev. W. C. Hooker, Eastern Szechuan sub-Agency, at Chungking.
- The Rev. T. Torrance, Western Szechuan sub-Agency, at Chengtu.

*NORTH CHINA, SUB-AGENCY**Sub-Agency Secretary, Rev. W. S. Strong.**Place of residence, Peking.***Table of Circulation**

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Sales at depository.....	254	827	371,885	372,966
For 1917.....	349	2,931	946	4,226
Total sales.....	603	3,758	372,831	377,192
Donations.....	68	497	144	709
Total circulation	671	4,255	372,975	377,901

Mr. Strong had a heartbreaking year. To see the need of God's Word, and hear daily appeals for even portions of Scripture, which could not be supplied, was most distressing to him.

A Scripture Famine

Mr. Strong presents an impressive picture of the worst Scripture famine he has ever experienced. He says:

"During the past year we have been seriously handicapped by the Agency not having sufficient money for printing Scriptures. This has resulted in a Bible famine. For the last three months I have not had a single copy of the Gospels in stock, and the current sales from this depot have been limited to Bibles and New Testaments. As the stock in the hands of correspondents was sold out the number of distribution centers diminished. There was a time, not long ago, when over 600,000 copies of the Gospels were distributed in nearly three hundred centers. But to-day these centers have dwindled down to six; and if reports from all of these had reached me before the closing of the year's accounts some of them would not appear in the list of unsold stocks, for I feel sure that there are Scriptures in only two of the six places. Such a state of affairs is heartbreaking to a Christian worker; it is despairing to think that at this juncture,

the most opportune time in the history of our Society in China, we have not a single copy of the Gospels—when a million would not suffice for the immediate demand!

The Circulation

“The total of sales for the year was only 377,901 copies, just about one-third of what they were a few years ago. If the Agency could have met the demand for Scriptures we could have sold considerably over a million, by supplying the normal requirements. There has been a Scripture famine. The preachers go from place to place preaching the gospel, but they are not able to leave with the hearers the written Word of God, that silent, ever-present missionary, to follow up the impressions made by the evangelist.

Not a Single Gospel for Sixty Districts

“Many of the districts which were formerly supplied from this depot have been able to secure Scriptures from the other two Bible Societies, but I have on my list some sixty districts where for over half a year they have not had a single copy of the Gospels. I have had Chinese workers in the depot telling me of their work and begging for Scriptures as hungry men for bread. Again, a lady just about leaving for a country station called upon me a few weeks ago and begged for Scriptures, but, without a single copy of the Gospels in stock, I could give her nothing! Almost in despair, she said, ‘Is it worth while going without them?’ The fact that she could not get them—that her most important weapon of warfare was lacking—brought tears to her eyes. I did my best, later on, to secure some, for which she thanked me as if they had meant life to her; and certainly they did mean life to her work.

Peking, A Great Strategic Student Center

“The work from the depot has, owing to the lack of books, been of necessity limited to Peking city, which,

after all, is the most important place in China. We thank God for the results accomplished, and for the ever-increasing opportunities for the distribution of God's Word, albeit we have not been able to take advantage of them. In proportion as the light of the gospel is disseminated in this city, its effects will be felt throughout the republic. All other cities are more or less provincial: Peking is cosmopolitan. Besides, it is the greatest educational center in China. During the past year the Mission Union University has begun its work, while the Rockefeller Foundation Medical School has just been moved from Tientsin to this city, and is now housed in its new buildings, near our Bible House. It has extensive grounds and residential accommodations for eight hundred students. Students flock to the capital from all parts of China. They are here in multitudes. On the occasion of the recent Peace Conference they paraded and formed a procession five miles long, marching several abreast."

SOUTH CHINA SUB-AGENCY

Sub-Agency Secretary, Rev. John Johnson.

Place of residence, Canton.

Table of Circulation

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Sales at depository.....	59	738	1,169	1,966
Sales by correspondents.....	644	2,230	10,060	14,934
Total sales.....	703	2,968	13,229	16,900
Donations.....	...	2	46	48
Total circulation.....	703	2,970	13,275	16,948

The paucity of funds, lack of books, and the discharge of all colporteurs, combined to make the year 1918 one of much discouragement to Mr. Johnson. Almost all of the sales were by correspondents, as the table shows. Mr. Strong's story of a Bible

famine in North China is repeated by Mr. Johnson in South China.

**Work of the American Bible Society Assumed by
the British and Foreign Bible Society**

Mr. Johnson was placed in the very unenviable position of seeing the work that had been built up in this sub-Agency assumed by the British and Foreign Bible Society, because the reduced appropriations necessitated the dismissal of all colporteurs. Surely it is only lack of knowledge of China's needs that has caused God's people in America to withhold the necessary funds for the work and place the responsibility for it on the British Society during the years of war, when Britain was carrying so much greater a burden than America! Mr. Johnson writes:

“In this field the British and Foreign Bible Society, through its numerous colporteurs, has had a largely increased sale of Scriptures—especially of portions. The fact is, that when we had to give up our colportage in this field it was to a considerable extent taken over by the British Society. We are grateful that the funds of the British Society have enabled it to assume the double burden of both their own and our share of the colportage work; but, while this is so, the sub-Agent in this field is placed in a very unenviable position. He cannot employ colporteurs, nor can he develop a voluntary work; for to do the latter in a field where paid colportage is so liberally and extensively used would involve long and patient effort as well as extensive travel. The latter would be expensive, and is therefore impossible at the present time. To increase the demand for books would also be folly, for the demand could not be met. We mention these difficulties not because they are peculiar to this sub-Agency—the others have their share—but because we want the patrons of the Society in the States to realize our position, and come to our relief.

Urgent Need of the Message of Emancipation

“For two years or more we have been fervently hoping and praying for deliverance from this crippling, depressing financial pressure; longing that the American Bible Society may liberally contribute its quota toward supplying this great nation with the ‘Bread of Life,’ as with such lavish generosity the American people are feeding the famishing multitudes of Europe. Never was the need greater than now, for never before have the people realized so keenly their need of deliverance from the galling shackles of political, social, and religious bondage; and never before have they been so able to appreciate the message of emancipation which the Bible brings. Education is slowly but surely spreading; and this, together with the ever-widening, enlightening, and elevating influences of Christianity, is giving them an appetite for that truth which can make them, as it has made other nations, truly great and free.”

Conclusion

Mr. Johnson concludes his report with these earnest words: “Thus, in this great city, though we cannot do all we could wish, we are trying to do all we can, with the limited means at our disposal, for the circulation of God’s Word and the inculcation of its saving truths. We wait and work, in hope of the dawning of a brighter day.”

CENTRAL CHINA SUB-AGENCY

Sub-Agency Secretary, Mr. Godfrey Hirst.

Place of residence, Hankow.

Table of Circulation

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Sales at depository.....	1,751	11,083	15,906	28,740
Sales, by correspondents.....	80	832	228,843	229,755
Sales by colporteurs.....	...	.....	2,170	2,170
Total sales.....	1,831	11,915	246,919	260,665
Donations.....	2	.....	.....	2
Total circulation.....	1,833	11,915	246,919	260,667

In this section of China there was much disturbance, due to the strife between the northern and southern factions in China. Mr. Hirst says:

“During the year the strife between the northern and the southern factions in China has continued. This has resulted in great misery and hardship to the people of the affected districts. The overthrow of civil authority has given rise to bands of robbers who formed in the mountains and exploited the people unmercifully, some of whom were carried off and held for ransom.

“In the province of Hunan the suffering has been especially severe. Naturally, with all this unrest, the work of evangelism and colportage has been greatly hindered. Conditions have been such that the wives of missionaries who were away for the summer were not allowed by the consuls to return to interior places.”

A Famine More Disastrous than Lack of Food

From this sub-Agency also comes the melancholy news of a famine of the Word. Mr. Hirst writes:

“The story of the work in the Kiangsi Province is particularly sad to Bible lovers. It is a story of famine—a famine more disastrous than the want of food, which affects the body alone. It has been a famine of the Bread of Life, which nourishes the souls of men. The Agency was unable, through lack of funds, to supply anything like the demand for the Scriptures. The people were ready to buy the Gospels, but we did not have them to offer. In some stations the stock was used up and could not be replenished. The limited number of portions enabled some regular itinerating to be done, also a limited work among hospital patients. Distribution has been continued on the river steamers at Kiukiang, where quite a number of Gospels have been sold. The wide-reaching influence of this work among travelers is immeasurable.

"From the far-distant province of Kansuh comes word of appreciation and testimony from evangelists to the great help the Scriptures are in their work, and requests for further supplies of Gospels.

"From Honan Province the reports are more encouraging, for with the exception of the northwestern portion (bordering on Shensi) being unsafe, the whole has been peaceful.

"From two centers on the east border the hindrances have been plague or influenza; and, again, our limited supply of portions."

WEST CHINA.—Eastern Szechuan Sub-Agency

Sub-Agency Secretary, Rev. W. C. Hooker.

Place of residence, Chungking.

Table of Circulation

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Sales at depository.....	350	2,798	3,961	7,109
Sales by correspondents.....	...	20	73,477	73,497
Sales by colporteurs.....	...	.....	3,768	3,768
Total sales.....	350	2,818	81,206	84,374

In this section of the great Chinese Empire there has been considerable disturbance from bold highway robbers. As Mr. Hooker states:

"The robbers have been more lawless than ever in the outlying districts. For more than four months we were unable to get books down from the Chengtu Press because robbers were holding up all the traffic. The people are reaching the end even of their wonderful patience, and the local militia are taking matters into their own hands, executing robbers wherever they can catch them; because of this the routes between here and Chengtu are more open than they have been for a long time. There has also been much delay in getting books from Shanghai. No steamers have been allowed to run, except the foreign-owned steamers of the two oil companies."

Books—Books—Books: A Veritable Famine

Famine — *Famine* — FAMINE — is the chorus in minor strain, from all parts of China. Will not all lovers of the Word in America respond to this repeated appeal, and send the needed relief to the perishing multitudes? “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

Mr. Hooker writes:

“The reason given for stopping the other vessels was the fear that they might carry northern troops. Merchandise which naturally ought to come by steamer is being sent by the mails, and they are getting clogged.

“Our crying need this year has been, and still is, for books—*books*—BOOKS. One of the correspondents writes: ‘What the munitions factory is to the soldier at the front, so are the Bible and tract societies to the missionary in the field.’ If this is so, the West China missionaries may be compared to the Russian troops, defending themselves with guns that had bayonets only, and tearing down buildings to use the bricks for ammunition.

“When the Society was compelled to dismiss the colporteurs because of lack of funds, we decided personally to continue the support of some of them, as I reported last year. We had, however, to lay them off when books gave out, and the scarcity has been so great that they average the work of less than three men for the year. We are thankful for one extra, who was supported by the Methodist Episcopal Mission church at Leona, Pa.

Great Eagerness for the Story of Jesus

“The following are some of the incidents from correspondents’ reports. The Rev. G. W. Sparling, of the Canadian Methodist Mission, writes:

“ ‘One of the encouraging features of evangelistic



COLPORTEURS AMONG CHINESE MOUNTAINEERS

work in the country districts is the readiness with which the men buy the Gospels. In nearly all my journeys to Lanchuan I have been sorry, before returning, that I had not taken more books with me. Before leaving I have stocked with a goodly number and as many as I hoped to sell, but almost invariably there has been such a ready sale that I have found myself short of books before I was ready to return home. On my last journey I sold over 8,000-cash worth.

Large Sales on Market Days

“ ‘A favorite device is to plan my journey so that I will pass through the larger towns on market day. The streets are thronged, and after saying a few words the crowd is soon gathered and they are told that the books for sale contain the gospel, which we have come to China to bring, and there is no delay in commencing the work of selling. I have sold as many as three hundred copies of the Gospels within an hour.’ ”

WEST CHINA.—*Western Szechuan Sub-Agency*
Sub-Agency Secretary, Rev. Thomas Torrance.
Place of residence, Chengtu.

Table of Circulation

	Bibles	Test's	Portions	Total
Sales at depository.....	618	1,479	31,752	33,849
Sales by correspondents.....	...	.....	67,493	67,493
Total sales.....	618	1,479	99,245	101,342
Donations.....	9	124	3	136
Total circulation.....	627	1,603	99,248	101,478

Mr. Torrance had a year full of activity and encouragement, notwithstanding the decreased staff. The circulation exceeded the 100,000 mark, as the above table shows. This cheering result was made possible by the enthusiastic efforts of “a goodly number of unpaid helpers” who gave their time to the sale and exposition of the Scriptures, and also of “three privately-supported evangelist-colporteurs.” Mr. Torrance himself, in company with his and other workers, did much open-air work and made many towns, during which excellent “broadcast work” was done. The following quotations from Mr. Torrance’s interesting report demonstrate the important and far-reaching work which he is carrying on so aggressively. He writes:

“As opportunity offered we have conducted meet-

ings in the various mission churches, street chapels, Christian guilds, Y. M. C. A. halls, and the Chengtu hospital; given lectures to students in government schools and preached to crowds of people in the public temples. My purpose has been never to refuse an invitation to speak or lecture if I were free to do so. In this way I have responded to calls from five different missions working in Szechuan.

Remarkable Welcome in Heathen Temples

“From time to time the evangelist-colporteurs and I have gone on preaching tours in the country. This kind of work has perhaps been the most cheering of all. For here we were launching out into the deep and reaching the vast multitudes that knew nothing of Christianity. Space fails me to enumerate the many wonderful meetings we have had. Invariably we took the magic lantern with us. It drew the crowds in the evening. Night by night, tightly-packed gatherings of men in some roomy heathen temple would stand and see and hear of the truth contained in the Gospel they bought at the door. Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian temples have all been opened freely to us at one time or another. On my last itinerary we were given our choice in a certain city of using the Temple of Hell or the public theater—and we chose the latter. As usual, no charge was made; the citizens fully recognized the nature of our work and freely gave us the opportunity of reaching the people.

Seed-bearing Fruit after Many Days

“That their labors, whether in co-operative work like this or in individual effort, have borne fruit I know full well. The results may not be seen immediately, but sooner or later they must appear. The most wonderful case of this seed-bearing fruit after many days is that of Mr. Pan, whose photograph I have sent to you. Forty years ago, at the

age of nineteen, he read a Gospel lent to him by a friend, and recently the truth so long dormant in his mind sprang into fruition by-the chance meeting of a Christian who explained it to him. To-day he is one of the keenest, brightest church members in the province. Another interesting case, but the reverse of Mr. Pan's, is that of Mr. Shong, a man of seventy-seven years. About a year ago a colporteur sold him a copy of Genesis. The story of Joseph so gripped his heart that he believed at once. He sent his sons to buy a copy of every book the colporteur had. So he read also Exodus, Proverbs, Daniel, Jonah, the Gospels, and Acts. He, too, is now baptized. Hearing last October that I was near by, he walked six or seven miles to be present at our meeting. The sight of his earnest, godly face made me thank God and take courage.

Splendid Work of Bible Societies

“The testimony to the value of colportage-preaching work is the same everywhere. All unite in laying emphasis on the need of increased effort on the part of the American Bible Society. The Rev. George Hartwell, who came to China a quarter of a century ago, writes: ‘It is a privilege to bear witness to the splendid work of the Bible Societies in West China. The American Bible Society has been especially active. In addition to the regular colporteur work, you have personally conducted tours through many of the prosperous cities and towns on the plains.’ ”

What a wonderful story is the foregoing of the extensive, aggressive work for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ throughout the vast reaches of China! May this brief glimpse of the Society's activities stimulate many to the giving and securing of large contributions for the fundamental and indispensable labor of the American Bible Society both at home and abroad.

China's Urgent Need

We quote Dr. Hykes' earnest words at the close of his report, and trust they will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all who read, and pass on to others, the heartening reports from the uttermost parts of the earth:

"We close our year with profound thankfulness to God that he has blessed his own work. The Scriptures are still, through the operation of the Spirit, the power of God unto salvation.

"The close of the war, and the prospect of more normal conditions, together with an increased appropriation, leads us to look forward hopefully to 1919. We trust it may be laid upon the hearts of God's stewards to make it possible for the Society to meet the demand for the Word of Life which comes from the millions of China.

"In her efforts to emerge from her deplorable condition, nothing can help China more than the wide distributions of the Scripture."

Japan

Acting Agency Secretary: REV. KARL E. AURELL
Yokohama, Japan

Established 1876. From 1890-1904, Agency jointly maintained by the American Bible Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland. In 1904, work was divided, the northern part of Japan being assigned to the Agency of the American Bible Society, and the southern portion to the Agency of the British Societies. Circulation in 1918, 92,535 volumes. Aggregate circulation through American Bible Society since 1876, 4,286,814 volumes.

In this field, war conditions caused "a ceaseless advance in costs of production as well as of circulation of Scriptures." The inevitable result was a decrease in the output, which totaled for the year 5,053 Bibles, 40,494 Testaments, and 46,988 portions—92,535 volumes in all, as against 141,235 in 1917. The number of workers was 67, which was 29 less than in the preceding year.

Transfer of Headquarters

Owing to greatly increased rents it was considered best to move from the building so long occupied as the Agency Headquarters in Yokohama to a smaller place. Mr. Aurell, the Acting Agency Secretary, hopes this change will be only temporary, as he considers it desirable to transfer the headquarters to Tokyo.

Excerpts from Mr. Aurell's report give an outline of the year's activities:

The Tokyo Branch

"Our branch depot at the National Y. M. C. A. building having become more widely known throughout the city, has done a fine work during the year. Mr. Otake, who is in charge, has been kept very busy because of the steady increase of visitors and customers. The demand in the city for whole Bibles, well bound, has been greater than we could supply, which certainly is an encouraging evidence of the progressiveness of Christianity.

Bible Selling in Cherry-blossom Season

"As in many years past, the Society supplied Testaments for selling at special tent services held during cherry-blossom season in Tokyo. This is a good work, because large numbers of people who have walked themselves tired admiring the cherry blossoms, are glad to find a place to sit down in and rest. A number of earnest Christian workers in attendance quite easily get one group after another, many times during each day, into the tent. Practically everybody, at times like this, carries some spending money, and so, after having heard an earnest gospel message, many of them are quite willing to buy a Testament. It is an occasion that is well worth while, and we are glad to have some share in it.

A Barber Selling Scriptures

“The oldest son of one of our colporteurs runs a barber shop in the city. His sincerity as a Christian is speedily becoming known. Many of his customers have become Christian as a result of his testimony. The Bible is very precious to him; therefore every month he buys a few copies to have on hand to sell. He keeps them in a little case in the window so that passers-by on the street, as well as his customers inside, can see them. He never neglects to exalt God’s Book and consequently sells a number of copies every week. He observes the barbers’ holiday, the 17th of each month, by taking his brother and assistant with him to some place where he can hold open-air meetings, at which time, also, Scriptures are sold.

Bible Selling in the Schools

“Mr. Maekawa has been faithful in taking the Scriptures to the schools in the city, and though the high cost of living has hit the student body hard, affecting sales somewhat, it has been a real joy to hand out a goodly quantity of them. There are students practically in all schools who urge fellow-students to buy, and the realization of the need of the moral power of this book is more and more acknowledged.

Portions for the Japanese Troops in Siberia

“As Y. M. C. A. workers in Japan accompanied the 70,000 soldiers Japan sent to Siberia, we felt that we could not refuse to make a grant of 10,000 portions for distribution among them. The British Society also made a grant. Besides this the Christians in Nagoya City bought 3,200 from us to inclose in comfort bags, which they also sent over there through the Y. M. C. A.”

A Notable Conversion

Mr. Sato relates this encouraging fruit of his labors:

“On June 1st, in my evening open-air work, as I was relating some of my own experiences, a life-insurance agent by the name of Ozawa joined the crowd that stood around me. What I said went right to his heart. He asked if he could come and see me at my house on the morrow, and of course I cheerfully consented. Mr. Ozawa came, and in conversation disclosed to me much of his past wicked life. His wife was distracted over it and nearly at the point of losing her mind. He realized he was a dreadful sinner and begged the Lord to have mercy on him. Before returning he had the assurance of salvation, grounded upon the promises of the New Testament, of which, in the meanwhile, he had made himself the happy possessor. He has joined a church in the city and is one of the many whom I frequently meet and rejoice for. Results like these are encouragements the Lord gives colporteurs in the work they are privileged to do for him.”

A Poor Little Woman like Me

The faithful Bible-woman in Tokyo, Mrs. Kamoda, gives the following cheering experience in her work:

“One day last summer I came to a military officer’s home. The wife said they were Christians, but that their two servants were not. I went around to where they were and entered into a talk with them. Having told them of the God who loved us so that he gave his only begotten Son, I concluded my talk by reading I. Peter 2:18-20. They were so thankful for what I had said, and made up their minds to believe in Christ, and both bought Testaments. Just as I was leaving the milkman came and I talked to him also about the love of God, and he bought a Testament. The mistress had overheard

all that I said, and to show her appreciation came out and bought a copy. Later that mistress told her pastor of my visit and how happy she was that I had won her servants for Christ. It is wonderful that the Lord uses even a poor little woman like me in a work like this, and I do praise him for the privilege of serving him this way."

Mr. Kamiyama, a Miracle of Grace

One of Mr. Aurell's best workers, Mr. Kamiyama, is a striking example of the gospel which is "the power (*dunamis*, the dynamite) of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." When a young man of twenty, in a fit of passion, he "grabbed an old Japanese sword and unfortunately killed an old man." For this he was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labor for an indefinite period. He was in prison about nineteen years. He "hated religion like snakes." A fellow-prisoner was interested in the Bible and read it constantly when at leisure. This only irritated Mr. Kamiyama. His statement of his experiences, as related by Mr. Aurell, is in part as follows:

"Upon entering prison life I became most unruly. There seemed to be no limit to my wickedness. There was practically no disturbance in the prison that I was not implicated in. The result was that I had to endure all sorts of punishment.

"As regards religion, I had no use for either Buddhism or Christianity. Another young man, who shared my cell, always improved every minute he had by reading a Bible. Sitting on the floor we had to sit close to each other, and occasionally he would urge me to read the Bible. It made me furious to have him ask me to do so. I always sat with my back turned to him, because I could not stand it to see his face. I only wished he would fight, and I often challenged him to do so.

"That Bible he read was to my mind an awfully defiling thing, and therefore I always kept my things on the shelf as far from it as possible.

The "Still Small Voice"

"About ten years later something happened to me that led me to thinking differently from what I had in the past. One day, a certain fellow-prisoner very hatefully tried to get me into great embarrassment. I was terribly upset, and thought of nothing but vengeance. I spent most of the night pondering this thing. About midnight this thought came through my mind: 'Human beings certainly are pitiable things. If there is a God, he of course knows whether it is I that is bad or my opponent. If so, there is no use in getting infuriated over this matter. Some day it will become clear.' Waking up in the morning my feelings were entirely different from the day before. I cannot account for it, but it was a fact. All bitterness and bent toward having it out with the man I considered had wronged me had vanished. That very day I asked the officer for a Bible. When he brought it to me I took it with queer feelings. Should I really read a book that I had thought contaminated everything that touched it? I opened it and began at the first page and read on without stopping. When I arrived at the 28th verse of the 11th chapter of Matthew I was overpowered, and bending over on the floor, lamenting my sinful life, exclaimed: 'Oh, this is what my heart has been crying out for all my life!' My desperate need was met in the words of that verse. God spoke to me. This one verse from the New Testament was imbued with a power that effected an instantaneous and complete change in me. I kept on reading, and, arriving at Mark 2:17, was enabled to commit soul and body to Christ, and was filled with an inexpressible happiness.

A Modern Joseph

"The Bible, which had taken possession of my heart, became the sole ruler of my self. A remarkable change took place in my life in prison. I kept all the rules and worked diligently. In a brief period I gained the confidence of the officers. Finally I was honored by being made overseer of other prisoners. Every day I bore testimony to the saving grace of Christ to all about me and urged them to read the Bible.

"On the 27th of August, three years ago, the command came that I should be liberated from prison. When this joyful information came to my ears I immediately fell on my knees and thanked God, and at the same time prayed that he would grant me the privilege of spreading the Glad News among my countrymen the rest of my days. The Lord guided me in every matter and my request was granted; and on the 17th of July, almost two years ago, the American Bible Society gave me permission to begin selling Scriptures. It is an unspeakable joy to me day by day to have the privilege of spreading the book that has meant so much to me, and I hope to continue in this work until the Lord calls me home."

Korea

Agency Secretary: REV. S. A. BECK
Seoul, Korea

Present Agency established 1908. From 1882 the Society worked in Korea until 1904 through its Japan Agency. From 1904 until December, 1907, it worked through a joint Agency with the British and Foreign Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland. Circulation in 1918, 213,739 volumes. Aggregate circulation in the ten years since 1907, 2,379,743 volumes.

Mr. Beck's report for the year 1918 records both lights and shadows, though the former predominate. This will be the last full report of the Korean Agency, as arrangements have been entered into by which the Society has transferred its interests in Korea to the British and Foreign Bible Society in exchange for their interests in the Philippine Islands.

Discouragements and their Effects

Mr. Beck says that in some respects the year 1918 "has been the hardest year thus far experienced. A further unanticipated necessary reduction in the appropriations compelled a readjustment of the work of the colporteurs, and the release in some sections of men who had been with us for years and were among our best salesmen, because that part of the field was less needy than certain other parts, and at the same time the older men could not be transferred to the newer work; so there was consequent hardship both to the colporteurs and to the Society.

"The effects of the world war came closer home to Korea this year, making it harder for the people to live on their limited incomes, harder for the colporteurs to get access to the homes, and harder to make sales. It also became increasingly difficult for the colporteurs to travel about the country with their packs of books, food and travel expenses increasing to more than double the previous prices.

"Police and gendarmes have also in many places made it difficult to sell books, because of the inquisitorial methods not only with the colporteurs themselves but with the inhabitants in the villages where they traveled and attempted to dispose of the Scriptures."

The Circulation

Owing to the war and other conditions noted above, the circulation decreased from 279,176 in 1917 to 213,739 last year—a loss of 65,437. The great majority of the books distributed were portions, as in the other Foreign Agencies. The records show that 390 Bibles, 6,838 Testaments, and 206,511 portions were put into circulation by 134 people, but there was an average of only 57 colporteurs and 11 Biblewomen, these two groups of workers making total sales of 208,416 volumes, while our entire circulation was 213,739.

Correspondents have done considerable work without compensation, while several Japanese workers have kept stocks of Japanese Scriptures in the leading churches and received a commission on the sales effected. Our Japanese headquarters has been maintained in Seoul, and Mrs. Soda has done some excellent work.

Mr. Beck's report is full of many striking illustrations of the power of the Word of God in turning men away from sin, and in influencing them to burn or discard their idols and follow Christ.

A few of the briefer instances are thus reported by Mr. Beck:

Picture-covered Gospels

"Rebecca Choi called at the home of a woman in Yangju County and found her with a sorrowful heart, holding a sick boy in her arms. After explaining about Jesus she asked the woman to purchase Gospels, but was refused. As the Bible-woman was rising to go to another house the sick boy asked his mother to buy the books with the pretty pictures; and because of the love for her son the books were purchased. Then he asked his father to read some from the books. The father disliked to read a Christian book, yet to please the sick boy he did read a little on several occasions. Eventually the boy entirely recovered and could play as before; and one day he asked his father to teach him to read; but the father was so busy farming that he had no time to teach the boy how to read. When I again called I gave them the Eunmun alphabet, and that night the tired father was asked to teach this alphabet; within three months he was able to read and understand. The Gospels were the easiest to read and he enjoyed them the most. While the boy was reading the parents frequently heard the words of the gospel, and gradually were led to believe in Jesus Christ. The



GROUP OF KOREAN PATRIOTS IN PRISON

MR. SYNGMAN RHEE IN CHAINS, AT THE LEFT (SEE BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, SEPTEMBER, 1918)

boy is only seven, but he can read all the Eunmun books; and now there are seven in this family who are believing in Christ.

Weekly Bible Class for Korean Scholars

“In the mountains of Kangwon Province Colporteur Yi Byung Wook was instrumental in gathering together a group of about twenty-five men well versed in Chinese and Korean literature, to whom he had taught the Scriptures. These men were meeting faithfully week by week for the study of the Word of God, and were teaching the truths to their families.

Gospels for Prisoners

“Yun Yung Pil, before starting on a special tour for the sale of Scriptures at Mokai, in the Choongju

district, called on the chief of gendarmes and asked permission to preach to the prisoners, presenting to the chief a few copies of Japanese Gospels. Permission was readily granted and the prisoners called out. Tears were on the cheeks of several as they listened to the message, and there were grateful thanks as they received copies of the Word.

The Cat-and-Rat Evil Spirit

“Kim Yudai relates: ‘Near my village lives a widow with a son twenty-three years of age, who was married when he was seventeen, but disliked his wife, so that they had frequent quarrels and finally lived apart. The widow was greatly troubled because of the acts of her son and daughter-in-law, and finally decided to send her son to Seoul, to the home of his uncle, where he might learn to be a merchant. The boy was delighted with the city and was fascinated by the bright lights and gay life about him. After three years, in which he had devoted himself more to pleasure than to business, he made an arrangement with a dancing girl whereby she was to quit her business and live with him as his wife. This becoming known to the uncle, the boy was sent back to his mother in the country village. A few days after his return the young man visited a sorceress and told her of his unhappy life; that he did not wish to live with his wife, and that he did want to return to the bright life in the city; so, together with the sorceress, he planned a way of escape from his miseries. In a few days he feigned sickness and asked that the sorceress be called. The sorceress came, practiced her magic, and then told the mother that her daughter-in-law was possessed with an evil spirit which made the son sick. According to Saju (year, month, day and hour of birth), her son belonged to a rat and his wife to a cat, so they could not agree with each other, and in due time the cat would destroy the rat. The

widowed mother was greatly troubled, and finally came to me and said that she remembered a rumor that a Christian could pray and drive away the evil spirits. I told her I had no such power; but she begged me to go to her house, and I went and explained the Gospels and prayed. An earnest invitation was given to me to come again. I left several of the Gospels, and again she came and wanted me to come and explain these books, and pray with the family. For three days I did this, and on the fourth day the son with tears told of the wrong things he had done, and decided to live a new life in Jesus Christ.'

Saved from the Evil Spirit

"From Haiju one of our colporteurs writes of his stay at the inn in a country village, and of being disturbed by the shoutings of an old man who was running about the street with a long knife. Some supposed the man crazy, but it was explained that he was not crazy, but that his house was haunted by an evil spirit, and he was searching for the spirit to kill it, so his house might have peace. The colporteur, later, accompanied by the proprietor of the inn, called on the old man, told him about Jesus, and asked him to believe. He said that if Jesus could drive away the evil spirit he would believe in Jesus. The colporteur explained that if he faithfully believed in Jesus, God would keep the evil spirits away from him and his family. At the earnest request of the family the colporteur remained at the house for a few days; there was no reappearance of the evil spirit, and the family was happy in the consciousness that God's Word and God's spirit could not only take away sin but also all fear of the evil spirit.

Robbers Won for Christ

"One of our colporteurs, passing over a high and lonely mountain pass, was beset by robbers, who ex-

pected to find something valuable in his pack and traveling bag. His few possessions were ransacked and the books thrown on the ground; but he took the occasion to preach Christ to the two men, who at first would not listen. Eventually, however, they gave back all they had taken, paid for two of the Gospels, promised to abandon their calling, and went to the country to engage in farming and to preach Christ."

Great is the encouragement to Christians everywhere of such instances as the above. It is not easy for the American Bible Society and Mr. Beck to withdraw from the work that has been built up in Korea and is of such promise; but, in line with the spirit of union and co-operation in the Christian church, and for the sake of economy, the Society gladly passes over its work in Korea to the efficient British and Foreign Bible Society, with confidence that it will be well cared for. And, in exchange, it takes over all the work of the British Society in the Philippine Islands.

Philippines

Agency Secretary: REV. J. L. McLAUGHLIN
Box 755, Manila, P. I.

Established 1899. Field: The whole archipelago of about 3,000 islands.
Circulation in 1918, 45,495 volumes. Aggregate circulation since 1899, 1,635,743 volumes.

The Society was fortunate in securing the services of a local committee of missionaries consisting of the Rev. E. S. Lyons, of the Methodist Episcopal, the Rev. W. H. Hanna, from the Disciples, and the Rev. J. L. Hooper, from the Presbyterian Missions, respectively. The Rev. W. H. Hanna undertook the correspondence with the Home Office.

The details of management in Manila were in the hands of trusted Filipinos. Carlos Panganiban was made depot manager. He had been for ten years in the service of the Agency, and of his honesty and



PHILIPPINE PROBLEM AND PERIL: THE HALF-CASTES

THE CHRISTIAN SOLUTION: THE PROTECTION AND PRIVILEGES OF A HOME AND SCHOOL.
MRS. LUND AND HER "FAMILY," ZAMBOANGO, P. I.

integrity there could be no question. The Rev. Candido Magno was made manager of field work. He had been an active pastor and was generally in the favor of all the constituency. Mr. Hanna was to have general supervision.

This management worked well. But, as might be expected, Mr. Hanna writes:

"We rejoice that the work of circulating the Word that makes wise unto salvation goes on apace in the Philippine Islands. Of course, without the active labors and ingenious planning of Mr. McLaughlin, the figures for distribution will show a decrease. For some two months we have been without a supply of Bibles in the Tagalog language, which has handicapped the success of the Bible Revival campaign."

A new arrangement has now been entered into, which is a part of the report for 1920, but which should be mentioned here, by which the whole care of the Philippines has been entrusted to the American Bible Society. The British and Foreign Bible Society retires, in an exchange by which the American Bible Society withdraws from Korea, turning over its interests there to the British and Foreign Bible Society. Mr. McLaughlin has returned to the field and next year we hope to present a more complete narrative of Bible work in this vital section of the world field.

Beyond the Limits of the Agencies

EUROPE

The Society has no established agency in Europe, save such countries as are included in the Levant Agency. It, however, has correspondents in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, and Spain. Through these correspondents it is able to assist in the supply of the Holy Scriptures to many who would not receive them otherwise.

Only partial and imperfect reports of the work in Europe can be presented again this year. From most of the correspondents no word has been received. This is not surprising, considering the disturbed conditions of the present and the obstacles to work in the past. From some countries and correspondents, however, belated reports of work in earlier years of the war have arrived. These we present in connection with statements of the results in 1918, to make the record as complete as possible.

War Distribution in Europe

The foregoing reports show not only that no distinction can be made between ordinary distribution and the War Distribution, but indicate that the

circulation recorded should be practically all entered as War Distribution. The World's Sunday School Association money provided for some of the circulation accomplished during earlier years of the war, and here recorded, as well as during 1918.

From the reports we gather the following facts of War Distribution:

- 2,400 volumes in Russia, all from American Sunday-school scholars.
- 4,000 volumes in Germany from American Sunday-school scholars.
- 4,518 volumes in Switzerland.
- 134,371 volumes in France, of which 125,891 were gifts of American Sunday-school scholars.
- 19,332 volumes in Italy, through the Waldensian Aid Society.
- 7,000 volumes in Italy, through the British and Foreign Bible Society, the gifts of American Sunday-school scholars.

171,621 volumes—total issue in Europe, now reported for the first time.

The total hitherto reported as War Distribution in Europe from August, 1914, to December 31, 1917, was 1,674,867; and this total, so far as records now obtainable show, amounted on December 31, 1918, to 1,846,488 volumes.

Russia

Through the Rev. Arthur Taylor, M.A., then secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in a letter received too late for record in the 1917 report, comes the following statement of work accomplished that year through money sent on behalf of the World's Sunday School Association. He tells us:

"The \$200 were devoted to distribution in Russia, and we estimate from a letter received from Dr. Kean that the total number of copies given away was 2,400 volumes. Dr. Kean writes that one-half of the sum was expended through the Rev. Dr. Simons, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, and the other half through the American Red Cross."

No word has been received from other correspondents in Russia concerning the work in 1918.

Germany

The Rev. Arthur Taylor, M.A., on behalf of the

British and Foreign Bible Society, sends information concerning the use of \$500 sent through that Society for use in Germany in 1917. This money was also the gift of American Sunday-school scholars. He writes:

"The sum of \$500 was devoted to the supply of Testaments to prisoners of war in Germany. We estimate that it provided 4,000 Testaments, and if you will kindly accept that figure we will enter it at this end as the number supplied to your order."

Switzerland

The Rev. Dr. R. Ernest Grob, of the Methodist Episcopal Conference in Switzerland, sends the following:

"During the last year the work continued in an encouraging way, though it was much hampered by the war. There was everywhere strong inquiry for the Holy Book, and for the first time in my life I had to refuse the orders that came in, because it was utterly impossible to get the Bibles. Now things are turning to the better, and I do hope that this experience leads our people to a higher estimation of the Word of God."

The issues reported by Dr. Grob consisted of 1,148 Bibles, 1,620 Testaments, and 1,750 portions; or a total of 4,518 volumes.

No report has been received from the Evangelical Society of Geneva.

France

The secretary of the Bible Society of France, Dr. Ernest Bertrand, includes in his report information about the circulation during 1916 and 1917, as well as 1918, and brings our records more completely up to date, especially in connection with the Million Nickel Fund of the World's Sunday School Association.

1916-1917

A distribution is recorded of 10,086 copies during

1916, and of 25,627 copies during 1917, of the *Évangile du Soldat Français*. The *Bible Society Record* during the past two years, and the fuller *Annual Report* for 1918, present interesting details of this distribution and the appreciation expressed by men of various ranks and of various countries.

1918

In 1918, 8,480 of the 10,000 copies printed at the expense of the American Bible Society were distributed.

Accompanying the letter of thanks from Dr. Bertrand were letters in appreciation of the French Testaments circulated by the aid of the American Bible Society, not only from French, Belgian, Russian, and American soldiers, but also from such unexpected sources as the French colonial soldiers—Malagasies from Madagascar, Senegalese from Africa, Annamites from Asia, and islanders from Tahiti and New Caledonia. A training camp for these colonial troops was maintained by the French at St. Raphael on the Riviera.

Naturally, it would be thought, these troops would like Scriptures in their own tongues; but—"It is not thus! They prefer to read the Gospel in *French*." A letter from the Salvation Army in France acknowledges with deep thanks 1,400 copies of the Gospels. A Belgian chaplain asks for "many copies."

Another letter from Dr. Bertrand tells of the audience obtained with President Wilson for representatives of the Bible Society of France, who presented Mr. Wilson with "a very pretty little Bible, bound in parchment and illuminated, that was a veritable work of art." The paper *Le Christianisme au XXe Siècle*, giving an account of this incident, states:

"Mr. Wilson in a few well-chosen words responded that he was alive to the grave responsibility that rested upon him, in that the world was looking to

him and waiting for him to do that which could come only from God. Then, taking in his hands the Bible which had been presented to him, he said that if he was in any small measure worthy of such consideration in the eyes of the Christians who were before him, it was due to the religious principles that had been instilled in him by the Book of books, to which he had always looked for inspiration.

“As to the rest, he added, the work of justice that the Peace Conference was endeavoring to accomplish, ought to be such that the governments of the people would hereafter be inspired in their actions by Christian principles; that is to say, the principles of true justice, since at the foundation ‘Justice is religion’—in the sense that justice constitutes the essential part of religion itself.”

On this occasion the president of the Bible Society of France, Dr. de Visme, gave a brief and interesting explanation of what was meant by the Synod’s Version, as follows:

“Synodal, it is called, because made by command of the Synod of our Presbyterian churches. We have never had in France any authorized version of the Bible such as that which exists in England. But from the early days of the Reformation, there appeared one that was generally accepted by the people of our communities. It is that one that, after having undergone several successive revisions in the course of the last two centuries, was once more revised of late by some of our most distinguished linguists and theologians, a work of more than ten years’ labor that had just been completed when the war broke out.”

The Rev. Dr. Ritson, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, has sent a report of the work in 1916, which has not appeared in our records and is therefore presented herewith, as an additional service ren-

dered by American Sunday-school scholars, through the World's Sunday School Association.

"On December 6, 1916, I wrote to Mr. Vasseur, of Paris, authorizing him to spend the £50.10.5 which you remitted to us. I have received a report, now, stating that Mr. Vasseur has distributed 1,746 Testaments and 19,017 portions, making a total of 20,763. These books have been distributed among soldiers in all parts of France—chiefly by our own colporteurs, but also by the help of pastors and evangelists. Some of the books were distributed in Paris, at the stations, particularly at the railway stations du Nord and de l'Est. On the whole the volumes have been very well received. It has been quite exceptional for soldiers to reject them."

Dr. Ritson further reports that £24, sent in 1918 from the World's Sunday School Association, resulted in the circulation of 781 Testaments and 8,634 portions—"given by colporteurs to soldiers at railway stations, and in towns and villages, and by chaplains to men at the front."

From the Rev. R. H. Falconer, secretary of the National Bible Society of Scotland, comes report of what was accomplished during 1917 with money sent on behalf of the World's Sunday School Association for service in France through this Society. He wrote:

"I fear I did not attend to your request for a statement as to what we had done with the \$500 which you sent us for French Army work out of the Sunday-school offerings, and for this omission I crave pardon. We were able to circulate with this money 60,000 French Gospels."

Italy

The Waldensian Aid Society reports a circulation in 1918 of 29 Bibles, 11,740 Testaments, and 7,563 portions; or a total of 19,332 volumes, all in the

Italian language. The Rev. G. J. D'Anchise, one of the directors, writes:

"Soldiers in Naples have accepted the gift of the Scriptures, taking their caps off and kissing the precious little book containing the life and the words of the Saviour. Surely the little book has brought to them a keener feeling of the presence of the Master, in those gruesome hours of life in the trenches!"

The Rev. Dr. Ritson, on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society, reports that in 1917 and 1918 £50 supplied by the World's Sunday School Association resulted in the circulation of 2,000 Testaments and 5,000 portions in Italy.

Other European Countries

No report has been received from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Austria, or Spain.

ASIA

The Society had three Agencies on the continent of Asia—those in China, Korea, and Siam—and Agencies on the islands of Japan and the Philippines. It also had correspondents in Arabia and India.

India

No report was received from the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church in America.

From the report of the Madura Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, we find a circulation of 78 Bibles, 52 Testaments, and 14,074 portions; or a total of 14,204, as accomplished through the funds put at their disposal by this Society.

Arabia

The Arabian Mission of the Reformed Church in America reports a circulation of 400 Bibles, 148 Testaments, and 5,000 portions; or a total of 5,548 volumes. The Rev. Dr. James Cantine, their senior missionary, states:

"Our Scripture sales for Kuweit, Busrah, and Amara, which have been under my personal observation, have totaled 5,548 copies. Communications in Mesopotamia are still under military direction, and our colportage has been restricted to the places in which we live. Here at Busrah the sales have been increased by many copies to Indians in many of the Indian languages and by many scores of Bibles sent by the soldiers to their families in England."

Ceylon

From the American Ceylon Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions has come the following statement through its secretary, the Rev. W. E. Hitchcock, concerning all grants made in 1917 and not hitherto reported:

"The money was used for the purchase of 200 copies of the Tamil Bible, to be presented to pupils in our boarding schools. Many of the pupils come from Hindu homes and have never had a Bible before.

"Now the Mission desires me to ask you if your Society will kindly give us a grant of 100 English Bibles for students in Jaffna College and our Uduvil Girls' English School."

The 100 Bibles asked for were donated by the American Bible Society during 1918.

MICRONESIA

As in the past, our chief work in Micronesia is through shipments of Scriptures to missions on the islands. The largest shipments during 1918 were 501 volumes to Gilbert Islands and 200 volumes in the Hawaiian language.

AFRICA

Under the report of the Levant Agency the work of the Society in Egypt and the Soudan is reported. During 1918, 37,128 volumes were sent to Africa out-

side of the Levant Agency area—26,642 being in the Zulu language.

From the Rev. William C. Terril, of the Methodist Episcopal Church Mission at Inhambane, have come reports of several interesting incidents which occurred as a result of the Scriptures supplied to him in 1917 and 1918; these we present herewith.

Under date of May 6, 1918, he writes:

“I have already written to you regarding the safe arrival of the 400 New Testaments in Sheetswa that you sent to this Mission last year. They are already in circulation, some of them going to Johannesburg and other parts of the Transvaal and not a few to Nyassaland, our great battle front on this coast. Many of our native Christians have been called and are still being called to the colors, and whenever possible we supply them with a copy of the New Testament, and a hymn book in their own language.

“A few months ago I wrote to you about the Gitonga Scriptures being used up entirely. I did not report why there was a sudden run on them. The Church of England Mission of this district has work principally among the Batonga tribe, and there were several young men from that tribe, also, drafted for the front. This Mission referred to wished to supply their natives with a copy of the New Testament in Gitonga, and their stock being exhausted I gave to them 100 copies, which used all that I had with the exception of ten.”

**A Heathen Converted in Portuguese Nyassaland
through a Sheetswa Bible from New York**

Under date of August 9, 1918, the Rev. Mr. Terril writes again:

“Permit me to say that I am pleased that you approve of the use of the copies of the Sheetswa Scriptures that you sent us for army purposes. Another incident came under my personal notice, which I feel is worth reporting. It shows that the Sheetswa

Scriptures that were thus distributed were not only used for the strengthening of the native Christians in the faith, but were also used in winning the heathen for Christ. I have just been making a tour of my district (requiring six weeks for the trip), holding quarterly conferences, examinations, meetings, etc. At one of the conferences held, among the many candidates for baptism was a very bright, intelligent, and capable young native man. When the questions were being asked him as to when, how, and where he was converted, I was greatly surprised and rejoiced to have him reply that he was converted in the army in Portuguese Nyassaland, in this province. How did it come about, I asked him. He told me that when he went there he was a heathen, and guilty of all that a heathen African can be guilty of, but that some of the Inhambane Christians held daily meetings in the Sheetswa language. One of their number was appointed the preacher, and they would sing the Sheetswa hymns from our hymnal and then a chapter from the Sheetswa Scriptures would be read and an exposition given. At first this young man scoffed at it all, but he was taken sick, which was thought to be unto death, and those who cared for him the best were the Inhambane Christians, and they nursed him back to life. This made him more susceptible to the gospel message that the native, self-appointed preacher gave each day, and the young scoffing heathen became a penitent and sought forgiveness, and gave his heart to God and was thoroughly converted. He remained a few months longer in the army, and was again taken seriously ill; this time he was granted permission to return to his home. I had the honor of baptizing this young man and admitting him into the communion of our church; also of administering to him the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for the first time.

Had the American Bible Society not made pos-

sible for us these copies of the Sheetswa New Testament, there would have been no services held, no Word of God read at the Nyassa front, and this young man would not have become a servant of the King. Doubtless he is just one example of many others that we shall meet when the native boys return from the front."

THE AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETIES

Material aid was given by many auxiliary societies in the special work of 1918—that of supplying Scriptures for the Army and Navy. The absorption of the country in supporting the Army and Navy, and the many useful lines of service open to civilians at home, are doubtless responsible, on the other hand, for the absence of reports from a large number of auxiliaries. It is noteworthy and cheering to find the oldest auxiliaries usually among the most active. Several are over a century old, while three celebrated their Centennial during 1918. The Maryland Bible Society made a further payment of \$5,000 on the Bible House at Cristobal, Canal Zone, which it is presenting to the American Bible Society. Almost \$2,000 came through the New Hampshire Bible Society, and \$1,000 from the Massachusetts Bible Society.

The largest gift from individual auxiliaries received in many years came during this crucial year of war expense and war calls, the Essex County Bible Society of New Jersey sending \$3,000, and the Sussex County Bible Society of New Jersey, \$1,500. Details of the activities of the auxiliary societies will be found in the full *Annual Report*.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Details of the income and expenditures of the Society are supplied in the reports of the Executive Officers in the *Annual Report* for 1919. The total income for the year was \$912,846.40, while the total

charges for the period ending December 31, 1918, were \$889,092.86, leaving an excess of income over expenses and charges of \$23,753.54.-

Trust Funds

The permanent trusts, including the Endowment, amounted to \$1,951,917.63, of which \$21,878.95 was received during the year; Special Trusts created by the Board amounted to \$125,250; and Permanent Trusts, created for specific purposes, amounted to \$63,396.14. Thus the total of trust funds on December 31, 1918, is \$2,140,563.77. The net income from these trust funds amounted to \$99,265.43.

Other sources of income are legacies, and net income from the Bible House, and from sales. But the total from all these sources is not half the amount required for the Society's world-wide work. It is dependent on the gifts of the living for ability to meet the needs and calls of the hour.

ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATIONS

The appropriations for the year 1919, authorized by the Board of Managers of the Society, are as follows:

For the Home Agencies, \$105,300. This does not include the cost of the Scriptures placed at the disposal of the Home Agencies. For the miscellaneous grants of Scriptures and emergency items in the home field, \$10,000.

For the Foreign Agencies, \$322,850; \$229,150 is the appropriation from America in cash and books, and \$93,700 the estimated receipts from sales of Scriptures, church collections, and individual gifts in the foreign fields, which are not forwarded to the Bible House in New York as they are in the case of the Home Agencies, but are retained on the field as an addition to the appropriations. To meet emergencies connected with Foreign Agencies and the mis-

cellaneous grants in funds and books to fields in Europe, Africa, and Asia, where the Society has no regular Agencies, \$10,000. For the translation and revision of the Scriptures, largely for foreign lands, \$5,000.

For the manufacture of Scriptures at the Bible House in New York, \$225,000. These books are used chiefly in the Home Agencies of the Society and really are a supplement to their appropriation. Books are also sent from the Bible House to Latin-American countries, where they are included in the appropriations to the Agencies.

For the administrative and office expenses, which include the salaries of the officers, the clerical force at the Bible House, and all the cost of leaflets, the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, postage, traveling expenses, etc., \$50,000. For the expenses connected with the real estate of the Society and other capital charges, \$15,000.

These Appropriations and Estimates total \$743,150. A number of items impossible to estimate, and the increased cost of production and distribution in this country and abroad, owing to the constant rise in prices, will undoubtedly bring this figure up to a total of \$775,000 before the year is closed. For war emergencies \$150,000 will be needed, this making the total \$925,000.

Conclusion

The disturbing and dangerous disorders throughout the world; the restlessness, aspiration, and distress among the peoples of all continents, create and present a call and need for the steadying, enlightening, and beneficent influence of the Scriptures, which has never been more urgent. The Foreign Agencies of the Society are fields ripe for harvest beyond description. Stocks of Scriptures unreplenished during the war have been exhausted. All over the world

costs of colportage and other services have increased as in the United States. A new and unprecedented demand for the Scriptures has opened in the war-torn regions of Europe. Trusting in the good will of those who are lovers of the Bible in America and wherever the Society goes, the Board of Managers has made the appropriations for 1919 as recorded above, which, including the war emergencies, amount to \$925,000. Shall its faith be rewarded, its service to our country and to the world be facilitated?

Over and above all—as in the past, so in these crucial days—the earnest prayers, unfailing sympathy, and moral support of the friends of the Bible are earnestly desired by, and on behalf of, the American Bible Society and all its workers, that they may be faithful, tactful, unflinching and successful in the production and distribution of the Word to those in need throughout the world.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

Home Agencies

- Colored People of the South*, REV. J. P. WRAGG, D.D.
35 Gammon Avenue, Atlanta, Ga.
- Northwestern Agency*, REV. S. H. KIRKBRIDE, D.D.
332 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
- South Atlantic Agency*, REV. M. B. PORTER,
313 A East Grace Street, Richmond, Va.
- Western Agency*, REV. ARTHUR F. RAGATZ, D.D.
Lincoln St. and 16th Ave., Denver, Colo.
- Pacific Agency*, REV. A. WESLEY MELL
122 McAllister Street, San Francisco, Cal.
- Southwestern Agency*, REV. J. J. MORGAN
1304 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas.
- Eastern Agency*, REV. HENRY J. SCUDDER, B.D.
137 Montague Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Central Agency*, REV. FRANK MARSTON, D.D.,
424 Elm Street, Cincinnati, O.
- Atlantic Agency*, REV. FRANK P. PARKIN, D.D.,
701 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Foreign Agencies

- Levant Agency*, { * W. W. PEET,
Bible House, Constantinople, Turkey
† REV. FRANKLIN E. HOSKINS, D.D.,
Beirut, Syria
- La Plata Agency*, REV. FRANCIS G. PENZOTTI
Casilla de Correo, 304, Calle Parana, 481, Buenos Ayres, Argentina
- Japan Agency*, ‡ REV. KARL E. AURELL
Bible House, Yokohama, Japan
- China Agency*, REV. JOHN R. HYKES, D.D.
73 Szechuen Road, Shanghai, China
- Brazil Agency*, REV. H. C. TUCKER, D.D.
Caixa do Correo, 454, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Mexico Agency*, REV. A. H. MELLEN
Apartado 1373, Mexico City, Mexico
- West Indies Agency*, JOSE MARCIAL-DORADO, Ph.D.
San Juan, Porto Rico
- Siam Agency*, REV. ROBERT IRWIN
426 Pramuen Road, Bangkok, Siam
- Panama Canal and Central America Agency*, } REV. W. F. JORDAN
Bible House, Cristobal, Canal Zone
- Philippines Agency*, REV. J. L. McLAUGHLIN
Box 755, Manila, P. I.

* Appointed Acting Secretary on the death of Dr. Bowen.

† In charge of the Arabic-speaking portion of the field.

‡ Acting Agency Secretary.

Unless You Are Certain
that your money is invested
to the best possible advantage,
send for new booklet about

Bibles and Bonds

This is an investment in practical Christianity that yields a liberal return in interest to the investor during his lifetime.

Bible Society Annuity Bonds are issued to the careful investor, who is thereby enabled to make an adequate donation to the Society without risk or hardship to himself or herself. They are the most remarkable of all securities. Prudence, convenience, and good-will suggest that you should know more about them.

SEND FOR BOOKLET

American Bible Society
Bible House, New York